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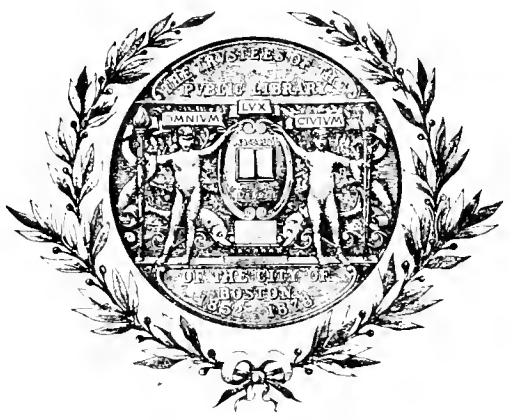

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 1954

THE QUESTION MARK

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Volume IX, Number 1 January 1954

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EDITOR'S CORNER

This issue of The Question Mark is the twelfth and final one to be published under the direction of the present Publications Committee. During the past year we have striven to maintain the high order of editing and writing established by our predecessors.

We have continued the usual features of the magazine and have added one--Centennial News. Our coverage of professional and social events, while such cannot be called "news", have been received with appreciation by many of our members who were not able to participate in those events.

To all our contributors who devoted their time and energies to provide us with articles and reports, we extend our thanks.

To the Staff of the Information Office for their unfailing efforts in keeping us informed of Library publicity and public events, we wish to acknowledge our appreciation.

To the Staff of the Personnel Office, we are grateful for their monthly stint of supplying us with the latest information on personnel and on the Staff Library.

To the Staff of the Office of Records, Files, Statistics, we are deeply indebted for their work in mimeographing and distributing The Question Mark, often done under trying circumstances, but always accomplished cheerfully and efficiently.

And lastly, to the new Publications Committee we wish success in the coming year.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

A.L.A. still needs you!

Won't you join for 1954?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 18. S.L.A., Boston Chapter, to meet in Lecture Hall, Boston Public Library, at 7:30 p.m. For more details, see page 2.

January 31- February 6. A.L.A. Mid-Winter meeting in Chicago.

PERSONAL NOTES

New Employees

Mrs Celeste R. Capano, South End

Helen J. Nicholas, Parker Hill

Resignations

Frank A. Doyle, Central Charging Records, moved to New York.

Mrs Gloria Seidenberg, Allston, to remain at home.

Mrs Naomi Wayne, Codman Square, to remain at home.

Richard J. Kilduff, Kirstein Business, to take another position.

Retirements

Anna G. Lynch, Memorial, after 47 years of service in the Library.

Transfers

Mary C. Day, from Memorial to City Point.

Felicia J. Langdon, from City Point to Audio-Visual.

Barbara A. Tuthill, from West Roxbury to North End.

Isabella M. Porter, from History to General Reference.

Charlotte Cooper, from Central Charging Records to North End.

Hope B. Brown, from Charlestown to Jamaica Plain.

Engagements

Announcement was made on Christmas Day of the engagement of Marie L. Crowley, Central Charging Records, to Robert Secatore of Milton.

Marriages

Dierdre Barry, Central Charging Records, to Hollis Smith, January 4, 1954 in Orange, Massachusetts.

THE B.P.L. ON TV

On Friday, January 8, Donald Born devoted his entire "New England Almanac" program to information about John Singer Sargent, whose birthday occurred during that week. He spoke of the paintings in the Gardner Museum, of the murals at the Museum of Fine Arts, and particularly about the murals at the Library. Mr Born mentioned the fact that the Library's murals have just been relighted and showed pictures from the Fine Arts Department of the various items he mentioned.

THE B.P.L. IN PRINT

Anson Smith of the Boston Herald had a feature article on the Library's Preview Room in Audio-Visual, published in the Herald for Sunday, January 10.

B.P.L. HOST TO S.L.A.

The Boston Public Library will be host to the Boston Chapter of S.L.A. on Monday evening, January 18, when its monthly meeting will take place in the Lecture Hall at Central Library. The program for the evening will be made up of three fifteen-minute talks by BPL staff members:

Milton E. Lord--The contribution of the Boston Public Library to the Special Libraries Field.

Arthur W. Heintzelman--The Print Department, A Special Library.

Mildred C. O'Connor--Cataloging for Special Libraries in a Large Public Library.

Following the meeting, refreshments will be served by a committee under the chairmanship of Loraine A. Sullivan, Science and Technology.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Grace Chippendale, Parker Hill, who has been re-elected Secretary of the Theatrical Library Association, with headquarters in the New York Public Library. This is Miss Chippendale's second term.

TALKS BY STAFF MEMBERS

Speaking on the Boston Public Library's contribution to community action in developing children and young people, Pauline Winnick, Readers Advisor for Young Adults, spoke to over one hundred fifty teachers in public and parochial schools, December 3, 1953, in the Program for Making Better Citizens Institute, held at the Boston State Teachers College.

This Institute is sponsored by the Boston School Department and the Massachusetts Department of Education, and has featured each week in turn specialists in recreation, law enforcement, education, religion, medicine, psychology, sociology, and social work whose efforts are being directed toward young people.

For the most part, these speakers represent member-agencies of the Greater Boston Council for Youth, formed last Spring to deal positively with juvenile delinquency.

*

On the evening of January 7, Mary Daly, Statistical, gave a talk to members of the St. Catherine of Genoa Book Club, in Somerville. Included in the audience were a number of invited guests from the National Council of Catholic Women.

The title of Miss Daly's talk was "Government Documents as Sources of Information and Keys to the Truth". We have been informed that it was well-received.

A Bride Comes Back

When Mrs Robert W. Pitman (nee Dorothy Fay Nourse) returned from her new home in Brooklyn, New York, to complete her service as Branch Librarian at East Boston, she little suspected the strenuous three-day schedule prepared for her by her colleagues.

Since East Boston is in the happy but hectic state of being renovated, Mrs Pitman had the dubious pleasure of winding up her records (the non-musical type) with the entire office equipment piled on her desk. After a peaceful (?) morning writing reports and giving last-minute suggestions and advice for the adequate continuation of the many library programs begun during her regime, in the early afternoon she was called to the Staff Room to solve an "impending emergency". The impending emergency proved to be a very

attractively arranged collation prepared by the Young people of the "part-time" staff, at which Mrs Pitman was the guest of honor. At the conclusion of the "relief", she was presented with a package, beautifully topped by a bow of mammoth proportions, which contained a double set of sterling salt and pepper shakers. It was hard to discern who was the happier, the recipient or the givers, since all radiated such unrestrained enthusiasm.

After an exciting day at the branch, where work was constantly interrupted by well-wishers from the community who came to say a word of appreciation for past services and to offer best wishes for a happy future, Mrs Pitman returned to her apartment for a quiet evening of rest and relaxation (so she thought!) En route from the Library she was one of the guests at a Beacon Hill neighborhood sherry party, at the home of Mrs Elizabeth L. Wright. The quiet evening at home was nicely underway, in fact had just reached the after-dinner-coffee--shoes-off-under-the-table stage when some twenty friends, carrying chairs, refreshments, silver, china, and gifts descended on the unsuspecting bride. A quick slip-on of shoes, a dash to the kitchen with the coffee cups, and Mrs Pitman and her housemate, Madalene F. Holt, were in a twinkling of an eye, the perfect hostesses. Before the evening was fully under way, six more friends arrived and the "arduous" task of opening her gifts was undertaken by the bride. At the conclusion of this lengthy but increasingly pleasant task, the hostesses for the evening (the 8-8 Club and Miss Holt), took over. Delicious refreshments, featuring a bride's cake of unusual proportions with delicately etched frosting, was cut by the bride (while the poor groom "slaved and toiled" in Brooklyn).

Monday had been very festive, but Tuesday was to be given over exclusively to the tasks of the moment, so the About-to-be-Concluded Branch Librarian decided. When Margaret Morgan, Branch Librarian, Connolly, appeared at East Boston shortly before noon, Mrs Pitman was glad to see her but somewhat bewildered by her unexpected and unexplained appearance. The answer was not long in forthcoming. Miss Morgan, who had formerly worked at East Boston, was there "to keep house" while the full-time members of the staff took Mrs Pitman to The Paul Roger House in Revere for a farewell luncheon. The attractively arranged table, so located that the guests had a view of the sea, was further enhanced by an intriguing package placed beside the guest of honor. At the conclusion of a delicious luncheon the contents of the package, a sterling silver compote, were revealed, and after an exchange of well wishes the party reluctantly returned to the scene of the day's work, and Miss Morgan, after due thanks, was allowed to return from whence she came.

After a brief afternoon of unremitting toil, Mrs Pitman left East Boston at six o'clock to go to the home of Sarah M. Usher, where she joined the 8-8 Club in a farewell dinner.

It was fortunate that Mrs Pitman returned "to work" at a time when the Officer Group of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services had its monthly meeting for thus she was able to savor once again the unique character of these gatherings. She was also to be present in the flesh (no reflections meant) at the luncheon given by the group in her honor. Forty-six friends and associates gathered in the Dome Room of the Hotel Lenox to offer Mrs Pitman their congratulations and well wishes for the future and to express regret at the fact that she will no longer be an active member of the Branch Librarians Group. These included: Edith Guerrier, Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Emeritus, and Branch Librarians, Emeritus, Mary E. Anes, M. Florence Cufflin, Mrs Margaret Calnan Donaghue, Mrs Sara Lyon, Katherine S. Rogan, Mary M. Sullivan, and Rebecca E. Willis.

At the conclusion of a tasty luncheon, Mrs Ada A. Andelman, Supervisor of Home Reading Services, in a few well-chosen words, spoke for those assembled when she recalled the outstanding contribution made by Mrs Pitman as a Branch Librarian in the several communities in which she had served and especially in the East Boston District which she has served faithfully and well for over thirteen years. At the conclusion of her remarks Mrs Andelman, on behalf of the group, presented the guest of honor with an intriguing package (Where had she seen that beautiful bow before ?) which proved to contain a bill of sizeable denomination

enclosed in an attractive evening purse. In accepting the gift Mrs Pitman displayed another of her many qualities, that of an impromptu public speaker.

It is hard to estimate in which capacity Mrs Pitman will be more acutely missed—in the Library as a Branch Librarian working with her own staff with efficiency and understanding, as a member of the Branch Librarians' Group and of the BPLPSA where she served on innumerable committees and provided countless numbers of cookies for every social function of both groups, as a vital factor in the life of the community where she gave freely and generously of her time and talents; or, as a gracious hostess and cook par excellence in her own home. We are going to miss the familiar phrase, "Ask Miss Nourse, she'll help." Committees, professional or social, without Miss Nourse are almost as hard to envision as Library social functions without Miss Nourse's cookies. The Library as well as the Bride is due for a realignment of duties. The best wishes of her associates go with her as she takes up her new duties as "housewife in Brooklyn", a task which can always be enlivened by a pun or two, of which Mrs Pitman has an unlimited supply.

Edna G. Peck

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AT CENTRAL

Wednesday, December 23, was the date set for the big party at Central Library--the Annual Christmas Tea. The Women's Lounge, decorated tastefully as befitted the season, was a room overflowing with good cheer, good fellowship, very good food, and overflowing also with staff members--present and retired. To join in the festivities, several "alumnae" returned and as always were welcomed with genuine warmth by their former colleagues--Mr and Mrs Orlando C. Davis, George H. Early, William J. Ennis, Christine Hayes, Alice M. Jordan, William J. Mulloney, Morris J. Rosenberg. The tea served also as an introduction to such parties to the Centennial Office personnel, represented by John MacMurdo, Arthur Stackpole, and Vera Van Tassel. To be congratulated most heartily are Mrs Elizabeth West and her efficient committee.

On Thursday morning, December 24, the Men's "Suite" was the scene of an equally successful Coffee Hour, under the sponsorship of the Men's House Committee, Donald L. Newman, Chairman. There was dancing in one room, to music furnished by recordings from Audio-Visual, played on a machine also lent by that department. Congratulations to the men who decorated their quarters so effectively and furnished such good refreshments.

These two parties turned out to be climaxes, as the celebrating really began on Wednesday, the sixteenth, when the Young Adults' Group had its Christmas Coffee Hour. From that time on there were departmental parties too numerous to list completely, but which included Open House in the newly assigned and renovated quarters for the Buildings Department staff; annual luncheons in the Binding, Branch Issue, Cataloging and Classification, R. and R. S., Book Preparation, and Book Purchasing Departments; and departmental parties and luncheons outside the building. Everywhere, everywhere--food, cards, Christmas trees, Christmas decorations, and always the friendly, cordial exchange of season's greetings among staff members.

Sarah M. Usher

SPORTS NEWS

Freight Yards Park, Boston

On December 22, before a madly cheering, capacity crowd of 7 frozen fans the B P Lions steamrollered the O'Brien All Stars by the lop-sided score of 36-12. As a result of the smashing victory the Lions split up the playoff payoff (a case of coke) graciously donated by the losing coach, Joe O'Brien, of Central Charging.

The Lions used their combination of speed, passing, and reserves in their pulverizing attack. The Lions scored on the very first play from scrimmage on a pass from Gerry (Slingshot) Hottleman to Danny (Crusher) Kelly and were never headed or seriously threatened thereafter. It was a tremendous team victory since six (6) different players crossed the goal line for the B P Lions.

The outclassed-but-game All Stars scored on an intercepted pass and on a 65 yard touchdown march that would have done credit to a Notre Dame Team.

Grantland Ricepatty

The Football Squad

With the end of the football season the National Magazines and News Services have been naming their College All-American teams and their "Most" Players. The following is a list of the All-B.P.L. Team:

Right End, Paul Smith, Book Purchasing.
Right Tackle, Art Lindsay, Exhibits.
Right Guard, Donald Newman, Book Purchasing.
Center, John Hallahan, Open Shelf
Left Guard, Larry Sindoni, Book Stack Service.
Left Tackle, John McCafferty, General Reference
Left End, Mike Barden, Cat. and Class., R.and R.S.
Quarterback, Gerry Hottleman, Book Purchasing.
Left Halfback, Paul Mulloney, Science and Tech.
Right Halfback, Walter Harris, Book Purchasing.
Fullback, Danny Kelly, Audio-Visual.
Coach, George Armstrong, Records, Files, Statistics.

Most Valuable, Donald Newman.
Most Improved, Paul Smith.
Most Left Handed, Paul Mulloney.
Most Dirtiest, Danny Kelly.

The All-B.P.L. team will be feted at a Hot Dog Dinner (with all the trimmings) down at Joe and Nemo's on Saturday, January 23. The "Most" Awards will be made by Buddy Parker-House, coach of World Champions. The Detroit Lions, incidentally, have refused an offer to play the All-B.P.L. team in Fenway Park with the proceeds going to the Centennial Fund.

Guest speaker for the Dinner will be Frank N.D. Leahy, well-known coach, who is reported to have scouted the squad in action on a couple of occasions during the season.

Grantland Ricepatty

Don't miss the notice on page 14

Sign up now!

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Another year in the life of the Professional Staff Association is drawing to a close. It has been a busy one and one marked by a spirit of good will and cooperation. My sincere thanks to each and everyone who helped, the members of the Executive Board, the Committee Chairmen, the Staff Representatives, and all the members who have responded so willingly whenever they have been asked to assist.

Keep up the good work and show the incoming officers the same readiness to work together for the common good.

If possible, arrange to be present at the annual meeting on Friday, January 22, at 9 A.M. to hear and discuss the reports of your committees and officers, to vote for your new officers and to act on proposed amendments to the Constitution. Otherwise, vote for your officers by absentee ballot. Remember, to be valid, these absentee ballots must be received by the Balloting Committee on or before Wednesday, January 20th. The obligation to vote is an important one. Whether or not you vote, the officers elected act for and represent you.

B. Joseph O'Neil

BRANCH LIBRARY--1872 MODEL

Letter of Instruction to Branch Librarian of the South Boston Branch from Justin Winsor in 1872.

April 23, 1872

Mrs. Keen,-

In investing you, until further orders, with the charge of the new Branch Library at South Boston, the central government of the Public Library desire to call your attention to the By-laws of the Library, and particularly to the injunctions contained in Article 20, on pages 16 and 17. Never forget the utmost importance of punctuality in the service, and of requiring it of all under your control. The hours established, or to be established for your branch are such as it is thought the interests of the public require, and they must be filled from the very beginning to the very end in that public service. Also remember that personal visitors take the Library's time, and the service proportionally suffers. It cannot be recognized as a proper indulgence. Be very careful of shewing favors to your

friends, or allowing your subordinates to do it; and by all means enforce the injunction in the By-laws, "section 3d of Article 20," regarding new books. The copies of which may be sent to your branch, of new popular books, may otherwise be kept in use by the library attendants, or their friends, for weeks, with obvious injustice towards the public. I shall depend confidently upon your avoiding this mistake.

Always treat everybody courteously, and with a spirit of accomodation; and if you observe in any visitor a feeling of complaint or a desire to suggest change, kindly ask such to address the Superintendent in writing, and tell him that you will see that the communication is conveyed to its proper destination.

You will find yourself obliged to deal, occasionally unpleasantly, with all sorts of people, from those most kindly disposed and full of forbearance, to such as are carping continually and eager to find fault. You must meet these last with good temper and conciliatory tact; but the moment you are conscious of the need for an authority superior to your own, inform me in writing.

You must constantly preserve good order throughout the rooms; and if after your kindly expressed remonstrance, any person persists in wrong doing, report the case to me at once. If the conduct is flagrantly disorderly, and cannot be safely endured till my interposition may come, send at once for an officer to the captain of the Police Station, and state the case to him.

To your charge is entrusted the keeping of the city property in the library and you must provide against loss and waste. Keep your stationery under lock and key, and also the money you may receive from fines and the sale of catalogues, which you will account for on your daily record receipts, at such times as Mr Capen may arrange.

In case of sickness of any of your force, so that you are unable to fulfill promptly the service required of you, you will report such. I hope to be able to provide in due time an assistant or two in reserve who may be at once called upon by you for temporary service in any such emergency.

Miss Mulloy will be put in charge of the Reading Room, and of taking the registration. She will satisfy herself by questions that the applicant has not already since Sept., 1867 registered in Boylston St., before receiving a new application. In asking for the one "reference" required, let her avoid the use of that word "reference", and put the question thus,--"give me the name of any person in South Boston who knows you". When the application is made, say to the applicant that his "card will be ready as soon as the application can be communicated to the central library". The applicant will be in each case required to sign name or mark to the application. This original application must be kept in an alphabetical file, and a copy of it made, and transmitted the next day to Mr Bradshaw at the Central Library, who will the same day return the slip, (marked with the applicant's registration number) of any who have already received cards from the central Library, and this fact will be made known to the applicant on demanding his card. If he replies his card is lost, make a record of it, and give him a new one with the registration number of his lost card, at the end of fifteen days.

You will see that the proper statistical record of both the Registration and Periodical Room is kept day by day as required by the headings of the Record Book of the Branch.

Miss Mulloy will be relieved during the hour and a quarter allowed for her dinner by yourself or Miss Baldwin, who may take her dinner hour as you may arrange, either before or after Miss Mulloy. You as well as Miss Baldwin should fully acquaint yourself with all that Miss Mulloy's duties require, so as to fill the gap yourself if exigencies should require it.

Whoever is to stay till 10 will be allowed one hour for tea between 6 and 7, and one of the other two must be in charge during that hour.

In no event will the attendant leave the Hall at 10 o'clock, unless the Janitor is on hand to close the building.

You will see that day by day all entries called for by the Record Book are made by you in it and on the Daily Report, and you will require that Miss Mulloy furnishes her figures on a slip of paper for you to copy.

Let Misses Mulloy and Baldwin read this paper, and you must preserve it for reference. Your subordinates are to understand that within the range of your authority as head of the Branch you are to be obeyed, and I enjoin upon them a spirit

of forbearance and submission, and upon you one of kindly justice. They can appeal to me, if necessary, but such appeal should be transmitted through you. I confidently expect however that there will be nothing jarring in your official relations one to the other.

(Signed) JUSTIN WINSOR

BLOOD PROGRAM

To give blood under the City of Boston Employees Blood Donor Program is patriotic, humane, and for the protection of the donor and his or her family. Remember that if the blood is donated during a scheduled working day, four hours excused absence are allowed by the Library for this purpose.

Have you been intending to give a pint of blood and just haven't gotten around to doing it? Call Mrs Wollent today and ask her for a Blood Donor Pledge Card and further information.

VISITORS

Dr Sami Kayyali, Director of the National Library of Syria.

Dr Karl Heinz Wallraf, Assistant Director, Bremen Public Libraries, Bremen, Germany.

TAKE A BOW

For the excellence of the CARE posters which she has made over a period of years, we ask Marie T. Hastie, Parker Hill, to take a bow for this month. In fact, we think that her Christmas poster is so good that its appeal is not limited only to the Christmas season, and we are using it as the back cover of this issue of The Question Mark. Congratulations, Miss Hastie!

HOW TRUE!

A Quote from A. Lincoln

"It is better to keep your mouth shut and have people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt."

A Prayer (source unknown)

"Fill my mouth with worthwhile stuff
And nudge me when I've said enough."

CENTENNIAL NOTES

The sum of $1,538.00 was realized from the sale of tickets for the Boston Premiere of the film presentation of William Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" which was held at the Majestic Theatre on Monday evening, December 21. The proceeds from the sale of tickets went into the Centennial Fund of the Library.

*

On Saturday, January 9, 1954, the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Library Trustees Association met in the Trustees Room to make arrangements for an all-day meeting of the entire association which will be held in the Boston Public Library on Saturday, March 27, 1954. The members of the Executive Committee who attended the meeting represented all sections of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. After the morning session, the group had luncheon in the Coffee Shop and thereafter was taken on a tour of the Central Library building. The March 27 meeting of the Massachusetts Library Trustees Association promises to be one of the highlights of the Centennial Anniversary.

*

The Advertising Club of Boston paid tribute to the Centennial Anniversary of the Library at a luncheon in the ballroom of the Hotel Statler on Tuesday, January 12. In spite of the inclement weather, some four hundred members of the Club and their guests attended the luncheon and listened to an excellent speaking program which was highlighted by the appearance of the four editors of Boston newspapers who appear on the popular television program entitled Starring the Editors, and a talk by Mr Lord on the facilities of the Library.

*

The Women's City Club paid tribute to the Library on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary at a dinner at its Clubhouse, 39 Beacon Street, on Wednesday evening, January 13. Augustin H. Parker, Jr., Treasurer of the Centennial Committee, was the toastmaster, and the principal speaker was Milton E. Lord. Some 250 people attended the dinner including several of the Trustees of the Library.

CARE

Grune 13.12.53.

Through the German Care-Mission we have received a CARE package from you. So I should like to give expression here of my delight, and my wife and I thank you most heartily.

We are both 71 years old and live here in very modest circumstances, since we had to leave our home (Silesia) in 1946. Now we have a small attic room where we are living since this time, and are thankful to God that He has helped us so far, and also made human hands willing to assist us. We rejoice greatly, therefore, that you have aided us through this package, although we are unknown to you.

May God bless you.

With hearty thanks.

Greetings,
Friedrich Wittig and wife,
Mathilde.

The Committee for CARE is pleased to bring to your attention from time to time appreciative letters such as the above. At present the bulk of our packages are going to Korea. And although no individual replies have been received from that country, we are sure that if circumstances permitted, these unfortunate people would readily voice their thanks too.

Walter J. Bluhm, Chairman
CARE

NEW BOOKS IN STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

Chute, Marchette G. Ben Jonson of Westminster.
New York, Dutton, 1953

Crosby, Caresse. The passionate years.
New York, Dial Press, 1953

Croy, Homer. Our Will Rogers.
New York, Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1953

Erskine, Helen. Out of this world.
New York, Putnam, 1953

Goodspeed, Edgar J. As I remember.
New York, Harper, 1953.

Henrey, Mrs Robert. Madeleine grown up.
New York, Dutton, 1953

Holbrook, Stewart H. The age of the moguls.
Garden City, New York, Doubleday, 1953

Howard, Frances M. Sleep without armor.
New York, Dutton, 1953

Lane, Margaret. The Bronte Story.
New York, Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1953

Mayne, Peter. The alleys of Marrakesh.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1953

Meyer, Agnes E. Out of these roots.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1953

Osgood, Cornelius. Winter.
New York, W. W. Norton, 1953

Randall, Clarence B. Freedom's faith.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1953

Raverat, Gwendolen M. Period piece.
New York, Norton, 1953

Sheen, Fulton J., Bp. Life is worth living.
New York, McGraw-Hill, 1953

Stevens, Leslie C. Russian assignment
Boston, Little, Brown, 1953

Fiction

Ambler, Eric. The Schirmer inheritance.
New York, Knopf, 1953

Barnes, Margaret C. The Tudor rose.
Philadelphia, Macrae Smith, 1953

Brady, Charles A. Stage of fools.
New York, Dutton, 1953

Gallico, Paul. Snowflake.
Garden City, New York, Doubleday, 1953

Grierson, Edward. The hastening wind.
New York, Knopf, 1953

O'Brien, Kate. The flower of May.
New York, Harper, 1953

Roberts, Dorothy J. The enchanted cup.
New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1953

Steen, Marguerite. Anna Fitzalan.
Garden City, New York, Doubleday, 1953

Treece, Henry. The dark island.
New York, Random House, 1953

BRANCH NOTES

Adams Street

On Friday, December 18, Ruth M. Hayes gave her annual Christmas party for members of the staff. After a collation of dainty sandwiches, cakes, ice cream, and coffee, Clifford Fay, as Santa Claus, passed out the gaily-wrapped presents. Dancing and games under the direction of the extras completed the evening's entertainment.

Egleston Square

Christmas at Egleston Square carried out the theme of hospitality and joy. To our

patrons the pleasure of Holiday decorations, two trees all sparkling with tinsel and stars, one in the Children's room and one in the Adult room carried out the tradition of "A TREE FOR CHRISTMAS". Two unusual posters with a black background and design of red candles with yellow flames, holly leaves in bright green, met the eye as one entered.

In a surrounding with the decor of cool grey floor and draperies, tables and desks in blond ash, with chairs in shades of coral and blue only the slightest arrangement of tables was necessary for conversational seating. Softly glowing red candles in iron holders and a beautiful bouquet of red roses attracted the eye as one entered the foyer. Gifts placed around the tree and joyous Christmas music played in the background. Everything was ready.

The staff welcomed their guests and, after introductions and pleasure in meeting old and new friends and exclamations over the new library, all gathered in a line at the long central charging counter which for the evening became a buffet table.

Would you like to hear the menu? What with the arrival, like the fresh new year, of the wonderful library cook book, one hesitates to mention menus, but here it is:

Cranberry Juice
Lobster Salad--Potato Salad
Tuna and rice casserole
Pickles Olives
Salad Mold
Hot buttered rolls
Cake-Pie-Cookies-brownies
Coffee

Everyone had his place at the table and the first Christmas party at Egleston Square was well on its happy way.

More music--more reminiscing and, of course, second helpings for everyone! Then everyone gathered around the tree and our Santa Claus, resplendent in a red raincoat well filled to rotund proportions and a paper hat and a beard made from a fresh white mop (even he went partly modern), called the name of each person to receive a gift and to each was attached a fitting verse which the recipient read aloud. More music, happy people, a lovely party. Our Librarian, Miss Levy, read aloud a gay and witty poem written by the poetess lauriat--Pat Wilson Venezia. The literary masterpiece included the whole story, epic-style, from the actual working inception of the new branch and gave credit to each one who had helped, even in a tiny way, to get ready. Many hidden virtues were brought right out in the open--and we all felt so pleased to have confirmed in print all the merits of the staff at Egleston Square.

Lovely soft holiday music--candles glowing, good conversation, gaiety, and happiness--a very merry first Christmas Party at Egleston Square.

P.S. The Librarian had to put her hat on as a signal for all to go home. That is real proof of a successful party, isn't it?

Mattapan

On December 14, William A. MacCormick, former chairman of the Youth Service Board, spoke to the Friends of the Library on "Our Teenagers, what about them?" After stating that much of the adolescent's trouble stems first from his search for security and secondly from his inability to express his desires, Mr MacCormick showed how these factors contribute to the formation of teen-age gangs. The gang with its definite code of rules for its members, its common bond of action and ideas offers security to the teen-ager in a bewilderingly contradictory world, he maintained. In many instances, he also pointed out, adults give no help in reconciling these contradictions, for at one time they will urge the teen-ager to act like a grown-up and in the next breath tell him he's too young to enjoy the privileges of a grown-up world. In order to solve the problem, Mr MacCormick feels, we must satisfy the teen-ager's need for security with love, trust, affection and good example. Following the lecture, a brief question and answer period provided those attending with an opportunity to clarify their ideas.

*

On December 22, a Christmas party was held for the pre-school story hour group. The children, dressed in holiday finery, entertained their mothers and the staff with a beguiling recitation of the poems learned during the Fall story hour session. They responded enthusiastically to the two Christmas stories, "Paddy's Christmas" and "Aloysius and the Rag Rug."

To close the program, Christmas candy baskets and gifts were distributed. One small youngster, afraid that her "wiberry teacher" might be forgotten by Santa Claus insisted that she bring an extra toy--a fearful and wonderful wooden clapper.

Neponset

Wednesday, December 21, was a day of parties. At noon Madalene Holt, Branch Librarian, served a delicious lunch to her staff, which was followed by the exchange of lovely gifts to everybody. In the afternoon, little kindergarten and 1st and 2nd grade children began to pour into the Library until by 3 o'clock there were 85 bright-eyed youngsters eagerly waiting for their promised Christmas party to begin. The Christmas Story was read, carols were sung, and the children recited poems and sang Christmas songs in groups and alone. One of the older girls executed two pretty dances in a lovely costume. After the program each child received a neat little package of Christmas candy and a bookmark made to resemble an attractive little book with a Christmas greeting inside.

On Wednesday morning, December 23, a group of twenty children gathered around Tyyne Saari to listen to Christmas Stories and to sing Christmas Carols.

A new winter project, the Space Travelers' Club for discovering and exploring new worlds in books, has been launched for the children. Each space traveler receives a silver space ship with which he zooms from one planet to another with each book read and reported on. The trip begins at any one of 12 starting points, each named for one of the constellations of the Zodiac and representing a special field.

Phillips Brooks

The Christmas party on December 17 was a great success. The Friends of the Library sponsors a similar party each year in lieu of its regular monthly meeting.

The joy of the season was expressed and enhanced by the musical program, which called on audience participation. The spontaneity and sincerity of the whole group made the evening the success it was. The Young People's Fellowship of the Roslindale Congregational Church were our carolers. When they asked the audience to join in on a chorus or two, the audience responded to its natural desire to do so. From then on the concert turned into a community sing, to the great delight of the performers. Nothing could have made them feel more welcome.

The Puppeteers presented a short play, based on a few old carols--the singing coming from the extras at the branch and one of their friends. The play started the evening off, illustrating that this was to be a singing good time and getting everyone in the mood for it.

The party concluded with refreshments prepared under the direction of Mrs Christopher Goode of the Friends. The punch, cookies, cake and candies were attractively served from a Christmas decorated table. James Horner, president of the Friends, introduced the parts of the program, and a yuletide welcome was extended to all by Mrs Mary Mannix O'Neill, Branch Librarian.

West End

Everybody had a share in the festivities that marked the children's celebration of Christmas, Thursday afternoon, December 17. The Lecture Hall, in holiday attire, fairly rocked when the voices of ninety children sang out "Jingle Bells","Frosty" and "Deck the Halls", while a pasteboard Santa winked encouragement from a table top. A group of more sedate choir boys--lace-paper surpliced and crimson gowned and flanked by wax candles twice as tall as themselves--perched atop the piano, presided over the softer strains of "Silent Night" sung in three languages--English, Polish, and German.

There were stories, "Christmas Eve on Beacon Hill" and "The Dwarf and the Cobbler's Sons", and a play, "The Best Gift of All", which was staged by a group of third grade girls from St Joseph's Parochial School. Miss Goldstein told the children something of her recent trip to Europe, contrasting living conditions there, especially for the young, with the freedom and privileges we enjoy in America.

More songs followed--three lovely Polish carols, sung by some of our neighborhood children of Polish parentage, English carols, by the whole group, and two solos, "The Friendly Beasts" and "Jingle Bells" sung five different ways! A rousing "Rudolf" climaxed the program--except for the surprise package of Christmas candy which each child received as he left the hall.

*

Christmas for the Staff this year took on an international air. Miss Goldstein was hostess to the entire group at a Christmas party at her home on Sunday evening, December 20. Supper was served, a delicious and unusual meal that combined standard New England fare with delicacies of foreign cuisine. But better still was Miss Goldstein's account of her travels abroad. The sights and sounds and smells of Israel invaded the Brookline apartment. For a little while we forgot the red and green of Christmas decorations, forgot the mistletoe; we drifted along a canal in Venice, watched breathless in an amphitheatre on the Acropolis, gazed up at the Pope from the Vatican courtyard, dashed through the shops of London. With difficulty we brought ourselves back to more familiar surroundings. And as a climax--there before us were the concrete symbols of another world, rosaries from Italy (blessed by the Pope), a plate and silver pins from Israel, book ends and a Coronation bell from England--these and many others, gifts for all.

*

On Thursday evening, December 17, twenty-four members of the local Beth Jacob Sisterhood held a meeting at West End to hear Miss Goldstein's description of the Israeli Scene from her observations of the past summer.

*

Thirty-seven children from the Confirmation class of Temple Israel Religious School at Worcester, and thirteen from Kehillath Israel in Brookline came to hear of the Judaica collection and West End's history during the month of December.

*

The Massachusetts General Hospital sent thirty-five of its student nurses to visit West End on Decmeber 23 to see the Christmas decorations and to learn of one of Boston's foremost historic buildings firsthand.

LATE FLASH

Mr and Mrs Walter Robinson announce the birth of a daughter, Carolyn Lee, on January 11, 1954, in Auckland, New Zealand. Mrs Robinson is the former Muriel Figenbaum of Print.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

Dear Editor:

Judging by the Supervisor of Personnel's letter in last month's Question Mark, I did suffer under a misapprehension in at least two instances. I was apparently in error, first, in assuming that Margaret Hutchins' definition of reference work as given in her Introduction to reference work, Chicago, American Library Association, 1944, p. 10, was a correct one. Miss Hutchins says, "Reference work includes the direct personal aid within a library to persons in search of information for whatever purpose." (Underscoring mine). The American Library Association, Board on Personnel Administration, also suffers from this same misapprehension. In their Descriptive list of professional and non-professional duties, Chicago, A.L.A., 1946, the only job description fitting this type of work is to be found under the heading REFERENCE WORK, subheading, PROFESSIONAL DUTIES.

My second error was in assuming that there was intended some order and purpose to the whole training program for subprofessionals (a term the crassness of which, by the way, has already been decried by both Pierce Butler and Everett Hughes). To judge from what appeared in the Supervisor's letter, one must infer either, that the program as a whole is not intended for the best interests of all the members of the subprofessional category but rather only for those in the branch service, or else, that all sub-

professionals pine and pant for the day when they can move from the dull drudgery that is now theirs to the Elysian fields of branch life.

But what of those creatures so unfortunate as to have taken the course in Library Letters, Reports and Statistics, which can, like Bartholomew Cubbins' hats, be so miraculously replaced by Elementary Information Sources? Can they hope to reach the Ultima Thule even though they are not prepared to answer easy reference questions? Or are they to find out that even though they have qualified by examinations, the pearly gates are to be shut to them forever, as they are for some professionals? And conversely, can those lucky ones who now take Elementary Information Sources feel adequately prepared to handle a subprofessional duty requiring a knowledge of library letters, reports, or statistics? Or, as the field of audio-visual work increases, as it seems bound to, will tomorrow another hat be taken off and Elementary Information Sources replaced by Needle Changing, I & II, Winter and Spring terms?

I will prescind from the moral issue of whether persons at a far lesser salary should be expected to do work which, in some quarters at least, is considered professional. I will prescind from the issue of whether it is simple justice to set up ten stumbling blocks, merely to toughen the fibre of the younger set without having these hurdles pertinent to the individual's work. I merely wish to point out that the dichotomy in this library which divides the staff into yang and yin, male and female, professional and subprofessional, reference and circulation was created by this Administration many years ago. If the result leaves the staff with a schizoid temperament, it is not of my doing and I resent the implication that it is stupidity on my part to expect the Administration to adhere to its own-created system.

I reiterate the statement of my first letter that no reflection was intended upon the capibilities or training of the person giving the course. It has always been my contention that any intelligent person on the staff is capable of performing well any duty assigned to him or her.

Eamon McDonough

To the editor:

The recent announcement of titular vacancies to be filled contained no mention of the position Chief Librarian, Division of Home Reading and Community Services. Yet rumor has it that appointment to that post is imminent. It is to be hoped that this is merely rumor, since such a step would be extremely unfair to those capable librarians, with many years of successful, pertinent, experience in branch libraries, who deserve an opportunity to be considered for the position. We have been told in the past that application for a position may not be made until a vacancy is announced for filling, and the qualifications for said position made known. If there is any intention to fill the above mentioned position at this time, may we respectfully request an early announcement, setting forth the qualifications for the post, so that all eligible candidates may be considered.

Branch Librarian

To the Soap Box:

Dame Rumor, that old bespeckled female, was on hand to welcome the unsuspecting youth, 1954. As usual, she has been rushing about madly in all directions and accomplishing nothing. Among her major projects at the beginning of this brand new year is the possibility of the filling of the vacancy created by the retirement, sometime ago, of the Chief Librarian of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services. Dame Rumor says that it is to be filled "from the ranks", but the ranks have not been so informed. Is there any special reason why that position should not be "posted" and the specifications listed in order that anyone interested might apply? Of course, Dame Rumor has been known to be wrong in the past; she may be very wrong in her present mutterings.

To the Editor:

The long delay--of almost two years--in filling the position of Chief Librarian of the Division of H.R.&C.S. has led to the natural assumption in some quarters that there are none among the staff adequately qualified for the position, and that the library field was being thoroughly canvassed for a person of demonstrably superior qualifications--of wide experience

in branch and community service, of marked administrative ability, outstanding personality, and intellectual stature--who would supply positive creative leadership to the Library, as it enters its second hundred years.

If, however, as rumor has it, that filling the position is at hand--and from within the Library one cannot help but conjecture why not long before? Furthermore, who among the staff are being considered for this vital post? If, as rumor continues to have it, only a handful of the higher echelon are being considered, regardless of specific experience, one cannot help but wonder why qualifications for this position should not be posted as for any other position, or does the theory operate that the job is tailored to the individual? Is it not possible that there are Branch Librarians, or other officers in the Division who have demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership in their communities which would qualify them for consideration for the vacancy?

Who Knows?

GIFT TO MR McGOWAN

On December 23, John Loring McNally, Buildings, and B. Joseph O'Neil, Periodical and Newspaper, visited William A. McGowan, who recently retired from the Library after 50 years of service, at his home in West Roxbury. On behalf of his friends in the Library, Bill was presented with a gift of eighty dollars in a wallet inscribed with his name, and a "remembrance" book, beautifully bound by Binding and filled with the best wishes of his host of friends in the Library. As unassuming as ever, Bill was genuinely surprised that anyone would take any notice of his retirement, and wanted all his friends to know that he will always cherish their expression of good will towards him.

Bill later sent the following letter to B. Joseph O'Neil:

15 Burwell Road
West Roxbury

Dear Joe,

I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the gifts presented to me by my friends in the Library, on the occasion of my retirement.

Please tell them that I will always have a very warm feeling for them which I hope to cherish to the end of my days.

Thanks again and a very happy New Year to all.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) WILLIAM A. MCGOWAN

HARK, YE!!! HARK, YE!!!!

Choral and Glee Club Group Being Organized

Why?

Because a number of staff members are interested in social singing.

Who will direct?

Blair Benner, Audio-Visual Department, M.A. in music and currently conductor of two choirs, has consented to act as Director.

Rehearsals?

Permission has been granted for use of the Lecture Hall, Central Library, until April 1954. Number and frequency of rehearsals to be determined by the group.

What to do if interested?

Give your name to your staff representative, who is asked to forward the list of names for his or her unit to:

William Di Rosario
Fine Arts Department
Central Library

How soon?

On or before Friday, January 22, 1954

Time?

All rehearsals, etc., to be on members' own time.

Dues?

None, except cost of sheet music.

Many institutions have been doing
this for years; isn't it about
time we do so!

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Professional Staff Association

May the light of Faith, Hope and Charity

warm the hearts of those who need your

CARE

January, 1954

Special Committee on CARE
Walter Bluhm, Chairman
Minna Steinberg
Marie T. Hastie

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 1954

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume IX, Number 2 February 1954

Publications Committee: Gerald L. Ball, John J. McCafferty, Sheila Pierce, Sarah M. Usher, Charles J. Gillis, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

The "third objective" of our Association is "to promote greater efficiency in library service." As this phrase covers a wide area of endeavor, wider than the Publications Committee can consider, we requested individual members to inform us of methods and procedures which might tend to further this aim. Since there were no suggestions offered we feel that our request was too inclusive. A more practical angle of attack is to ask "Why are some individuals so efficient in their jobs?"

In looking around us for some possible answers to this question, we find one indication in our own Question Mark feature "Take a Bow." After a searching look at the group of individuals singled out for special mention, we notice that each one is a well-adjusted person, adjusted to his work.

Many factors seem to contribute toward this adjustment--education, experience, ability to initiate and execute projects, a faculty for working with others with a minimum of cross-purposes--these are some of the attributes and knowledge needed by an efficient library worker. When this adjustment is made one might be considered as being "a round peg in a round hole."

The reverse side of the picture should show the maladjusted person--one who lacks certain of these characteristics necessary for efficient service. Such a person, although eminently fitted for certain jobs, finds himself in one which makes him feel like a round peg in a square hole. He feels unable to gain that sense of achievement which is necessary if he is to progress to larger goals.

In promoting greater efficiency in library service the methods used in job assignment are all-important. Any modification of a system which will aid the individual to discharge his responsibilities more successfully will add to overall efficiency.

Charles J. Gillis

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 16.	Adult Education Luncheon Club meeting, Joseph's Restaurant, 12:15 p.m.
February 18.	M.L.A. mid-winter meeting, Sheraton-Plaza Hotel.
February 20.	Catholic Book Week Fair, New England Mutual Hall, 2:30 p.m.
March 1.	BPL Arnavets, annual dinner, 6:30 p.m., at Eddie Davis' Steak House.
March 2.	BPLPSA reception to new officers, 8:30 p.m., Lecture Hall, Central Library. Mrs Edith H. Bailey, Branch Librarian, Emeritus, Phillips Brooks, will talk on her trip around the world, and will show colored slides.

PERSONAL NOTES

Resignations

George Mansour, Fine Arts

Mrs Florence K. Naudziunas, Book Stack Service, to remain at home

Mrs Alice R. Chisholm, Cataloging and Classification, Div. of H.R.&C.S., to remain at home

Mrs Stella K. Easland, Orient Heights, to remain at home

Mrs Naomi L. Wayne, Codman Square, to remain at home

Mrs Nancy C. Kiernan, Mattapan, to remain at home

Transfers

Mrs Rhea L. Freeman, from South End to Charlestown

Mrs Francina E. Gelzer, from North End to South End

Genevieve A. Moloney, from Allston to Bookmobile II

BIRTHS

Mr and Mrs Edward F. Gurnett, Jr have announced the birth of a second daughter, Julie, on January 23. Mrs Gurnett (Julia Manning) was formerly on the Rare Book staff.

Lt and Mrs Paul McGillicuddy announce the birth of their second son, Owen, born December 28. Mrs McGillicuddy is the former Eileen Wilson, from Book Purchasing. Lt McGillicuddy, on military leave from the Patent Room, is now serving with the U. S. Marines in Korea.

Mr and Mrs Henry W. Murphy have announced the birth of a son on February 11. Mrs Murphy, the former Katherine Melavin, is on leave of absence from the Business Office. Mrs Rosemary Corcoran, Office of Div. of H.R.&C.S., is the proud aunt.

BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY to

Miss Mary E. Ames, Branch Librarian, Emeritus, Fellowes Athenaeum who sustained a broken hip when she fell recently in her home in Belmont. She is at present at Wyman House, 330 Mt Auburn Street, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts.

TAKE A BOW!

To Richard Appel, Chief of the Music Department goes the February accolade for his successful organization and direction of the Library's part in the recent two-day meeting of the Music Library Association.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Your President joins with the other officers of the Asscciation in thanking you for the confidence in us you have expressed in the recent elections. We will do our best in the coming year to justify the choice you have made. If there is any way in which we may serve you, please let us know.

The Personnel Committee has begun its investigation of the promotional system in the Library to discover what changes might be recommended. Miss Christiana Jordan, Allston, Chairman of this committee, would be happy to receive any suggestions you have on the subject.

Our Centennial celebration is approaching its climax. Our Library, and all of us, its services and resources, are on display. To secure greater support for the expansion of the Library, it is our duty and privilege in our various capacities to be living testimonials to the value of the Library by providing the most efficient and courteous service in our power.

The dues for 1954 are now payable. Staff Representatives should forward the dues well-wrapped to the Treasurer, Miss Mary A. Hackett, Parker Hill.

B. JOSEPH O'NEIL

BLOOD PROGRAM

The Red Cross Blood Donor Center on Dartmouth Street near Marlborough Street is now open evenings on Tuesday and Thursday until 8 P.M. Have you been intending to give a pint of blood and just haven't gotten around to it? Call Mrs Wollent at Extension 244 for a pledge card to support a worthy program that will also be insurance for you and your family.

EDUCATIONAL FILM LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Exploring the Audio-Visual World was the theme of the first Eastern Regional Conference held in New York City, January 15 and 16. There were sessions on The Child's World, The School World, The World of the Community and One World. Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor, In Charge of Work with Adults, spoke on the Boston Public Library's film service. Mrs Javelin is a member of the EFLA Board of Directors.

CIVIL DEFENSE

Attention is called to a recent novel by Philip Wylie--Tomorrow!--in which he contrasts two cities in mid-western U.S.A. before, during, and after an all-out atomic attack on this country by the Soviets. One city had a well-organized Civil Defense set-up ready to go into immediate action; the other had scorned such preparation. A last chapter gives an interesting guess at what the U.S.A. might be like several years after surviving such a holocaust.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr Winthrop Holt Chenery

These lines are written in the memory of Dr Winthrop Holt Chenery who for six years, from 1921 to 1927, was Chief of Special Library Departments at the Boston Public Library. He died on October 18, 1953, at Burbank, California.

Six years are not a long time in the life of an institution which is just celebrating the hundredth anniversary of its founding. Yet Dr Chenery's comparatively short service has an abiding place in the history of the Library.

The son of Winthrop Louis and Ruth Baldwin Chenery, and a grand-nephew of George Ticknor, he was born at Belmont, Massachusetts, on March 8, 1872. His first interest lay in architecture. He studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, getting his architect's diploma in 1896. However, poor eye-sight incapacitated him for concentrating on blueprints, and so he decided to turn to the humanities. He went over to Harvard, where he earned his A.B. degree in the following year. The next three years he spent in Europe, chiefly in Spain. On his return to America, he became an instructor of French and Spanish at the University of Michigan, and in 1904 received his doctorate from Harvard. For the next fifteen years he was on the faculty of Washington University in St Louis, first as Assistant Professor and then as Associate Professor of Romance languages. In his last years there he served also as Librarian of the University. Family circumstances necessitated his return to the East, and, after a year at the Library School of New York State, he joined the staff of the Boston Public Library.

The set-up was different here at that time. The position of Chief of Special Library Departments consisted of the directing and supervising of the Fine Arts, Technology, Music, and Rare Book (called Barton-Ticknor) Divisions, each of which was under the care of an Assistant-in-Charge.

Staff members connected with the other Divisions--now called Departments--are better qualified to speak of Dr Chenery's work in their fields; I can testify only to his influence upon the Rare Book Division. He knew its collections well, and was ready with his advice in all problems, small and large. The Music Division was at that time located in the Treasure Room, while the Rare Book Division occupied its present quarters in the North Gallery plus the room which houses the Music Department. It was Dr Chenery's idea to establish a Treasure Room, and place it where it is now. He designed all its furnishings--its safes, shelves, and show cases; and he made the drawings for the complicated shelving of both the North Gallery and the Music Department. Unfortunately, by the time his plans were carried into execution he had left the Library. He had resumed his old post as Librarian of Washington University, remaining there until his retirement in 1937.

As I remember, Dr Chenery made designs, similar to those of the Rare Book and Music Departments, for the Fine Arts Department, too. Where the plans are now, if they were ever completed, nobody seems to know. His system of classification, based on that of the Library of Congress but considerably expanded, is that in use in the Fine Arts Department.

After a prolonged illness, Dr Chenery died at the fine old age of eighty-one. He had a full and fruitful career. Yet it is difficult to take leave of him, particularly for one who had the privilege of knowing him well. This is the case with the present writer, who perhaps will be permitted to indulge in a bit of personal reminiscence.

*

It was on a summer afternoon in 1923 that I first met him. Wandering about in the Library, and having had my fill of the murals of both Puvis de Chavannes and John Singer Sargent, I happened to stray into a quiet room, empty but for its beautiful rows of books, and watched over by a boy of fifteen, bent over his school work. Wanting to know more about the strange place, I asked him where the custodian was, only to be told that the man had died a few months before. Then and there I had the inspiration: this was the place for me.

"If you want to get any information," the boy enlightened me, "you better see Dr Chenery over in the Fine Arts Department." Over I went, and there at his desk in a corner I found Dr Chenery.

As I was introducing myself, he stood up, tall and strong, with short-sighted eyes and large, placid features. I told him what I had just learned, namely, that there was a vacancy in the Rare Book Room, and asked whether I might be considered for the position. Speaking in a low voice, he replied that there was no intention of filling the vacancy for some time; nevertheless, he inquired about my occupation and antecedents. I answered readily, but at one point a sudden impatience seized me: "Sir," I said, "if you would sit down, perhaps I could sit down too."

I still remember the surprise on that severe face, and then a slow smile and the ironic gesture: "Please, do sit down."

We sat down and talked for nearly an hour. I told him that I was a native of Hungary; that originally I had prepared for the law, and got my doctor's degree in jurisprudence; that after a brief practice, I had become a newspaperman, working on the largest daily and the smallest monthly in Budapest. I had translated several books from French and German into Hungarian, and published a number of stories. Rare Books and fine editions had always interested me.

Dr Chenery walked back with me to the Barton-Ticknor Room. Neither of the two names meant anything to me; nor did those of the Reverend Thomas Prince and Nathaniel Bowditch. Conscious of my faulty English, I was chary in asking questions. In fact, I mentioned my deficiency to Dr Chenery. He however reassured me: "If you have learned that much English in two years, one may hope that you will speak well in another year."

When I left, he told me that he would support my appointment. He put it in a very flattering way: "The position pays very little, twenty-eight dollars a week; no American with your qualifications would take it. Nor do I think that you will stay longer than two years. But meanwhile you will give useful service to the Library; and if you find then more promising work, I shall be glad to have been of help to you."

A week later I passed the entrance examination, and in a few days was notified of the appointment. I gave up my job at the Plympton Press at Norwood, which was paying me forty-five dollars a week, and began my work at the Library.

*

How wonderful those first two years were! For many a month I was constantly dazed and reeling, as avidly I wanted to know the books--all the hundred thousand of them. But slowly I began to find my bearings, learned the scope and contents of the collections, and before long I was arranging little exhibits on various subjects, sending out notices to the newspapers about them. By letters and the telephone, teachers and professors were invited to bring in their classes to view the exhibits, and soon enough I found myself a full-fledged lecturer. The Rare Book Room, affectionately referred to by some as "the Morgue," became a busy workshop. And before the year was out, I was contributing long articles about the Library's treasures to the Boston Evening Transcript.

But Dr Chenery's prediction had almost come true. In June 1925 I received an invitation (through Professor Reginald Griffith) to teach comparative literature at the University of Texas; and another (through Professor Sidney Fay) to teach Middle-European history and literature at Smith College. I talked the matter over with Dr Chenery, and he shared my opinion that, since I was already past thirty, it would be better for my future to get a doctorate in literature before I started out teaching. He gave me a letter of introduction to Professor John L. Lowes, formerly a colleague of his at Washington University and then Dean of the Graduate School at Harvard.

Accordingly, I resigned from the Library and moved to Cambridge. My teaching career, however, was over before it began. Friends interfered, no doubt with the best intentions, convincing the late Mr Kirstein, a Trustee, that the Library "needed" me. I expostulated with them, but they had their way. I split my courses at Harvard (finishing only to a master's degree); and in the fall returned to the Library, now as Editor of Publications. A few months later I brought out the first issue of More Books.

*

Dr Chenery stayed at the Library for two more years, but from then on my contacts with him were slight. For the editorship and the custodianship of the Rare Book Room were two distinct positions, in charge of two individuals, as they had been

from the beginning. The two positions were for the first time united in the hands of one officer in 1934 when, in addition to my editorial duties, I became also Keeper of Rare Books. (A few years earlier, I had assumed responsibility for the new Treasure Room.) But Dr Chenery remained a staunch friend. Nobody could have rejoiced more in the success of the new Library bulletin.

It is a matter of great regret to me that we had little connection in later years. Yet it was to him that I sent, with grateful dedication, one of the earliest copies of my book on John Adams. His warm letter of congratulation was the last I heard from him.

Reserved and dignified, Dr Chenery often gave the impression of coldness. Actually, he was extremely shy. His intimates knew that he had a keen sense of humor and a genuine friendliness. Simple in all his ways, he was contemptuous only of sham and hollowness. No one could have failed to be impressed by his clear thinking and extraordinary culture; yet above all, he was just and honorable.

I was fortunate, indeed, to have my entry into American life under the guidance of a man of such stature and character.

Zoltán Haraszti

*

Beatrice C. Maguire

After a prolonged illness of three years, Beatrice C. Maguire, Branch Librarian, Emeritus, died Sunday, January 24 at the Pickfair Rest Home in Reading. Miss Maguire began her library career at Allston in 1914, and was made Branch Librarian in 1917 at Boylston (now Connolly). From there she went to Warren Street (now Memorial), and then to Uphams Corner in 1924 where she was Librarian until her retirement, because of illness, on September 30, 1951.

Her career was marked by zealous service to the public, by intense professional pride, and by keen interest in guiding young people in their future careers.

In her, the public found a friend interested in their problems, who did everything in her power to make accessible to them the information, the pleasure, and the comfort that books give. Many who respected her astuteness sought her advice and were always welcomed by her in a kindly and understanding manner. Only in recent years has some of the public revealed inadvertently how well she observed the Biblical expression of not letting the left hand know what the right one does--for her charity extended not only to spiritual works, but, also, to corporal works of mercy.

Her intense professional pride exacted from her and her staff the highest standards in the principles of serving the public with intelligence and courteous efficiency. The public learned to depend on her extraordinary knowledge of books and their contents, and on her discriminatory book selection. Children's books, too, concerned her for she realized deeply the serious responsibility of guiding a child's initial steps in a world of books.

The young people who worked under her supervision found in her a teacher who stressed pride in workmanship, and who inspired them to develop potential abilities or talents which could be used in their future careers. Their successful accomplishments later in life rewarded her confidence and faith in them.

During her long illness it was edifying to witness her courage, her concern for others, and her complete acceptance of God's Will.

The Library and the Community have lost a loyal and selfless friend, but for those who knew her well and loved her the loss is greater.

Marie T. Hastie

RETIREMENTS

Anna G. Lynch

On November 31, 1953, Anna G. Lynch resigned after forty-seven years of library service. Although she worked at various times in Branch Issue, at Boylston, and in Dorchester, she will be most sincerely missed by the friends she made at Memorial, where she worked for the past twenty-six years. Her cheery outlook, her solid dependability, her calm disposition and her quiet humor made her the most amiable of colleagues. She was economical of words and did not waste them idly so that her observations, when they came, were telling, pointed, and witty. Her long-standing interest in

civic affairs made her quite the authority on developments in most City departments, and she was probably the most faithful reader the CITY RECORD has ever had. Through sun or snow, calm or blow, she leisurely walked the distance between her home and the branch, undoubtedly covering hundreds of miles, filled with friendly greetings from the many acquaintances she made during her years in Roxbury. This diversion probably accounted in some measure for her good health and good spirits. We hope that, after such activity, she does not plan to settle down to too quiet a period of leisure. We all offer her the most heartfelt of good wishes. Nobody else can ever fill her place in our fond memories.

Veronica M. Lehane

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

The Jewish Advocate recently carried the following editorial on Miss Goldstein's appointment as Curator of Judaica:

JUDAICA'S FIRST LADY

In connection with the observance of its centennial anniversary, the Boston Public Library this week announced the establishment of a separate Judaica Section to eventually be permanently housed in the proposed addition to the Library at Copley Square when it is erected. This is an action of national cultural significance. Since such Collections now exist only in the Library of Congress and in the New York Public Library, Boston bids well to become a major seat of Jewish scholarship and information.

Curator of the Judaica Section will be Miss Fanny Goldstein, Librarian of the West End Branch Library, who becomes the first woman to ever have been so honored. No choice could have been more fortunate, for few people have labored more to advance Jewish writing and Jewish books.

The community pays thanks to the trustees of the Library for its forward and most welcome move and congratulates them on their sagacious choice of Miss Goldstein as keeper of the books for the People of the Book.

Remember to CARE

CENTENNIAL NOTES

Music Library Association Meets to Honor Boston Public Library Centennial Celebration

Here's to the Music Library Association—to its future as well as to its past! In the eyes of an onlooking and partly-participating cataloger, its members are cordial and interesting people to meet.

The recent convention, with its opportunity of meeting people from many parts of the country, and of becoming better versed in what colleagues are doing in the field of music, was stimulating.

All of the speakers were authorities on their subject, including our own Mrs Javelin. Our eyes were opened to problems of administration and equipment. We learned, too, of the music program of the Brookline Public Library, of our Audio-Visual Department, and of the international organization of music libraries. The seats were hard in the Lecture Hall, but the association's president, Dr Spivacke, had us arise at the end of the seventh inning.

The convention had its lighter moments on Saturday afternoon when Boston's Nicholas Slonimsky gave his hilarious talk. We laughed continuously--from the incident of the author's review of his own book to the story of an old Persian who felt it was "nobody's business" when he was born. Mr Slonimsky can certainly dig up the facts, birth certificates included; and what fun he must have doing it. We heard that he wants to start a "correctorium" in order to correct all of the corrections of lexicographers (those old bearded Germans).

It was amusing to see two music librarians meet who had not seen each other since their music course at Northwestern University seventeen years ago and to hear the story of why each had become a music librarian rather than a vocalist.

All who did not attend the dinner on Sunday should have their regrets, after having seen the musical menu. (Editor's Note: see following article) They missed, also, Mr Appel in his element with his fine introductions.

The seats in the Lecture Hall were still hard, but not as precarious as were the Bentwood chairs of the artists of the

afternoon concert. In all seriousness, however, we enjoyed the Centennial Concert by the Stradivarius Quartet, especially the String quartet in E-flat major by Beethoven. For a cataloger as well as for the musicians and other librarians, the entire weekend was both a delightful and educational experience.

Mrs Virginia J. Spencer

*

The social activities of the recent Music Library Association annual convention began with a luncheon at the Sheraton Plaza on Sunday February 7, which was so well attended that an extra table had to be set at the last moment. Speeches appropriate to the occasion were delivered by Patrick F. McDonald, President of the Board of Trustees; Dr Harold Spivacke of the Library of Congress; Milton E. Lord; and Richard G. Appel. A citation to the Boston Public Library from the Music Library Association on the occasion of the celebration of the Centennial was presented to Mr McDonald.

The humorous side to the luncheon was the following menu prepared by Mr Appel, Chief of the Music Department:

MUSICAL MENU

CARTE DU JOUR

Fresh Fruit Cup Maraschino
con sordino—Love for Three Oranges à la Prokofieff
Half Roast Stuffed Chicken
senza sordini--La Poule à la Rameau
Giblet Gravy
Gravé--March to the giblet à la Berlioz
Fresh Peas Au Beurre
allegretto—Gathering peascods--traditional
Whipped Potatoes
ponderoso--Sack a potatoes à la Cecil#
Vanilla Ice Cream
glissando—Arlequin à la Drigo
Strawberry Sauce
pizzicato—Rype strawberries, rype à la Weelkes' Cryes of London
Petits Fours
chaleureusement—Knusperwaltzer à la Humperdinck
Coffee
con brio—Coffee Cantata à la Bach
Rolls
fortissimmo—Paukenwirbel à la Haydn

After the luncheon everyone hurried over to the Lecture Hall which was rapidly filling up for the Centennial Concert, presented by The Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation of The Library of Congress. The concert, performed by the Stradivarius Quartet, opened with the String Quartet in E minor by the Late Elizabeth S. Coolidge. After this came the première of the Second String Quartet of George Enesco. Following the intermission, we heard the String Quartet in E Flat Major, Opus 127, by Beethoven. The concert was well received by a packed house.

George M. Pahud

The Boston Public Library Quarterly and the Centennial Celebration

The lead article of the January issue of the Quarterly, Centennial Exhibit in the Treasure Room, was written by Zoltán Haraszti. This article has been reprinted as a separate pamphlet for distribution in the Treasure Room for the duration of the exhibit.

In this same issue there appears an article entitled Masterpieces of Print-Making, by Arthur W. Heintzelman, which tells of the exhibit in the Wiggin Gallery during the month of November as a contribution of the Print Department to the inauguration of the Centennial Celebration.

Notes from NEWS LETTER Number Five

The Centennial Commission has created a Steering Committee to direct and coordinate all activities. Members of this group include Patrick F. McDonald, Milton E. Lord, Augustin H. Parker, Jr., Francis W. Hatch, Paul T. Rothwell, Alan Steinert, G. Herbert Marcy, and General Chairman, Ralph M. Binney.

Three hundred and fifty men and women serving on 40 committees, divisions, and teams will make intensive, systematic approaches to thousands of individuals, business organizations, clubs, schools, and groups to obtain their financial support of the Library's program.

Specific projects for the establishment of units of the greater Library now are under consideration by the Irish-American and Jewish-American groups within the community.

A number of subscriptions from corporations have been received during recent

weeks, evidence of a growing realization by business and industry of the value of this great Library.

A number of organizations have held meetings honoring the Library and promoting interest. At the luncheon of the Advertising Club of Boston, for example, several hundred men and women heard Mayor Hynes urge them to participate in the program for the Library's development and expansion as explained by Mr Lord.

Another meeting in behalf of the Library was a dinner of the Women's City Club of Boston. Similar events for the future include those planned by the Massachusetts Society of Colonial Dames, the Massachusetts State Federation of Womens Clubs, the Massachusetts Library Trustees Association, and others.

The Research Committee, under the direction of Richard G. Hensley, has provided much valuable data for the development of the national publicity program.

COOKS IN PRINT

A second printing of 200 copies of the staff cook book resulted from the orders received from staff members and their friends. There are still available about 25 copies which may be purchased from Mrs Mary D. Farrell, Cataloging and Classification (R. & R. S.). If you have not yet called for those which you ordered, will you please do so soon?

Edith Guerrier Gives Miniature Books as Centennial Gift

Many gifts will come to the Library during the course of the Centennial Year, but few--if any--of them will have had so close a connection with it as the one which was presented on Thursday, February eleventh. On that morning Milton E. Lord, Director, accepted a gift of 105 miniature books presented personally by Edith Guerrier, Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Emeritus.

Not only was the donor vitally active in the Library for the major portion of her adult life, but it was in the creation of one of the many effective exhibits for which she was responsible that the collection had its inception. Wanting a contrast for a first folio edition of Shakespeare, what would be better than a tiny book--maybe 1½" x 1"? One was lent to her by James D. Henderson, whose collection of miniature books was outstanding. The fascination of tiny books was contagious; Miss Guerrier caught it then and there and it has never for one moment left her. That was more than two decades ago. The collection grew steadily, by purchase and by gift; it was exhibited frequently throughout the Library System; and it finally reached, and then exceeded, 100 volumes.

Because of the circumstances of its beginning and the close connection its development has had with the Boston Public Library, it is particularly gratifying that it has been so generously given to and will become one of the special collections of the Library.

The Edith Guerrier Miniature Book Collection, with its special significance as a Centennial gift, will be on exhibition in the main lobby of the Central Library building from April 20 until the end of the Centennial Celebration.

Sarah M. Usher

ALA MIDWINTER MEETING FEBRUARY 2 - 6, 1954 THE MORRISON HOTEL, CHICAGO

Notes by Elizabeth L. Wright

1. Twelve hundred librarians and a number of library school students from mid-western library schools who were attending their first ALA meeting were registered during the week.

2. The Summary Report of the 1954 Midwinter Meetings has been purchased for the Staff Library and should be available for use in about a week.

3. At the meeting of the ALA Council and again at the Library Education Division meeting, Mrs Grace Stevenson, the Associate Executive Secretary, announced the winners of Study Grants from the Fund for Adult Education and the Boston Public Library was honored by the announcement that Mrs Helen F. Hirson, Extension Librarian, was one of the winners.

4. The information was obtained at the ALA Exhibit that the publication date of the revised edition of the standard reference text by Dr Louis Shores,

Dean of Florida State University Library School, Basic Reference Books, has been advanced to March 1954.

5. It was announced at a meeting of the ALA Council that the Committee to recommend candidates to the President to fill the position of Librarian of Congress left vacant by the resignation of Dr Luther H. Evans to become Director-General of UNESCO has submitted the names of six candidates.

6. Those individuals awaiting the report by Mrs Helen Lyman Smith on the Adult Education Project will be interested to know that it is scheduled for publication in May 1954.

7. The Japan Library School, which opened under the auspices of the U. S. Army, is now almost three years old and the administration of the school from the beginning under the leadership of Mr Robert L. Gitler, former Director of the School of Librarianship of the University of Washington, is being gradually turned over to the local staff. Mr Gitler's term of office runs through another academic year. One graduate of the school is now in the United States doing graduate work. The latest catalog of the school, which is both in Japanese and in English, is available in the Personnel Office.

8. An Audio-Visual Workshop for library school faculty was scheduled on Monday prior to the Midwinter Meeting. Its subject was the use of audio-visual materials. The main ideas which came out of the Workshop were (1) that audio-visual materials should be integrated into the curriculum and into library service. For example, in a public library, all materials Shakespeare should appear in the catalog under the subject entry irrespective of the media, so that books, recordings of Shakespeare's plays, films on the Elizabethan theatre would all be found under Shakespeare in the catalog; (2) that since the majority of library school faculty were trained before the day of audio-visual materials, a workshop to provide training in this area should be scheduled for these individuals; (3) that an inventory of so-called "home-made" audio-visual materials by library school faculty, for example, catalog cards to be used in instruction and shown on a Vu-graph, should be prepared with the expectation that duplication of effort may be eliminated and reduced costs in producing audio-visual teaching materials may result.

Since the Midwinter Meeting is devoted to furthering the work of the Association and its Divisions, Boards, and Committees, little time is available to attend meetings in areas other than those in which an individual has assignments. Due to conflicts in the scheduling of meetings, I was unable, for example, to attend the open meetings of the Public Libraries Division.

Notes by Elizabeth M. Gordon

The week was crammed with conferences, meetings and special group luncheons or dinners,--and a scattering of teas and "open house" parties for lively intermissions.

The Official Program listed 30 open meetings from Tuesday through Saturday morning. These were thronged with librarians from every part of the USA and visitors from Mexico, Canada and other countries. On February 2, about 30 administrative heads of work with children in large public library systems met in closed session to consider special problems and questions.

At the business meeting Wednesday of the D.L.C.Y.P., committee reports on work accomplished or in progress were presented; the Carnival of Books programming problems were discussed, and plans sketched for the Minneapolis Conference in June. Lively, impressive reports were made by 15 or more officers and committee chairmen at the three crowded open sessions of the ALA Council, held in the hotel ballroom Thursday and Friday. Petitions for affiliation were presented and voted upon, including that of the Audio-Visual group.

Notes by Virginia Haviland

Four members of the Boston Public Library staff--the Director, Mrs Elizabeth Wright, Elizabeth M. Gordon and Virginia Haviland attended.

As set up, it is a working conference and those attending had their days filled with board, committee, and council meetings, seeing librarians with similar

purposes in attending--others only by chance (Mr Lord in an elevator, Mrs Wright across tables in the dining room).

For those interested in work with children, there was a luncheon arranged by the Chicago children's librarians when they introduced local authors, editors, reviewers and others prominent in the children's book world. Among them was Mrs Clara Ingram Judson, author, who later spoke of her happy visit to our library.

Another special affair was the tea given by Mrs Genevieve Foster to introduce Mrs Margot Benary-Isbert, author of The Ark (New York Herald Tribune award-winner). Mrs Foster showed some interesting copies of her own "Initial Biographies" translated into Urdur and other Eastern languages.

The writer of this piece had an exciting meeting of the Newbery-Caldecott Committee for the annual children's book awards to be presented on March 8.

SOMEWHERE IN THE LIBRARY . . .

1. Somewhere in the Library there is inscribed a condensed text of the 106th psalm. This psalm text provided a famous artist with the subject of a great work of art housed in this Library. The psalm is inscribed on a rather obscure portion of this famous set of paintings. Can you locate the inscription?

2. Somewhere in the Library there is a representation of the Lion of St Mark supporting an open book that bears an inscription of the motto of the city of Venice. This representation occurs in three separate locations within the Library, the details in all three representations are identical. Can you give the three locations?

3. A former president of the United States wrote a biography of George Washington. This Library possesses the original paintings which were used as illustrations for that biography. These paintings now hang in one of our public rooms. Can you give their location? The artist was Howard Pyle; the author, Woodrow Wilson.

4. It would seem only natural, since the Library contains so many volumes of dramatic works, that the traditional symbol of tragedy would be represented somewhere in the Library. In a series of four medallions painted upon the walls of the Library there may be seen a tragic mask. The artist who painted these medallions and the surrounding art work did all his painting directly upon the walls of the building. Can you locate this painting of the tragic mask?

Paul Moynihan

Answers to these questions will appear in our March issue.

DEPARTMENT NOTES

Audio-Visual

According to a recent atricle in the Parkway Transcript and the Hyde Park Tribune, a concert given by Blair Benner in the Roslindale Congregational Church on January 15 was a great success, with a full house and enthusiastic audience.

*

We hear that Blair Benner will appear in "The Gondoliers," by Gilbert and Sullivan, which is being staged by the Braintree Choral Society sometime in April. Blair has been give the bass lead, Don Alhambro, the Grand Inquisitor. He has previously sung in "Carmen," "Robin Hood," and "Les Cloches de Cornville" with this same group.

Kirstein Business Branch

The staff welcomes back Rose LaConca after four glorious weeks in California, and Gilda Rossetti after two equally glorious weeks in Florida.

Personnel Office

The members of the staff were Mrs Wright's guests for luncheon and a theatre party to see This is Cinerama on Saturday, January 23, 1954.

BRANCH NOTES

Mattapan

On Monday evening, January 25, Mr Lord spoke to the Friends of the Mattapan Branch Library about the Centennial Celebration. A large group attended the interesting talk which traced the development of public library service in Boston from 1852 to the present day. Highlights of those years were presented as

a basis for future plans which will expand the present services and resources of the library. At the conclusion of the program a coffee hour gave the members of the group an opportunity to meet and talk with Mr Lord.

*

A gala Valentine Party was held in the Children's Room for the pre-school story hour group on Tuesday morning, February 9. In addition to the stories told by the assistant in the Children's Room, a delightful program of recitations and songs was presented by the miniature amateurs. Of course, the highlight of the day was the distribution of valentines. A grocery carton disguised with red paper and trimmed with red hearts on a lace doily background served as the mailbox. Not only did the children bring valentines for each other; they also brought them for their "wiberry teacher"—valentines, several of which were lovingly cut out and pasted together by small fingers. "Oh, teacher, you'll be surprised," said one, "but I'm not going to tell you that I've got a valentine for you."

Memorial

The branch had a surprise visit on February 2 from Hirokazu Imamitsu of Nagoya, Japan and Hiroshi Kubota of Yamanashiken, Japan. Both gentlemen were visiting schools with Harold Shapiro, Supervisor in Education, Vocational Education Department, Massachusetts Department of Education. While they were at Memorial High School, Dr Winifred Nash, Headmaster of the girls school, thought a visit to a branch library might prove valuable. Both visitors expressed great interest and astonishment in many of the services we take for granted. The idea of a free library which is open to anyone who happens to come in whether or not he is a citizen seemed unique. A special collection of books for children and for young adults was another surprise. When Miss Kaufman spoke of having had a traveling exhibit of art work by Japanese students, both men were glad to hear of it. Exhibits of American art work are common in Japan, but the fact that work sent here is actually used seemed very gratifying.

Mr Imamitsu and Mr Kubota are high school teachers in Japan and have come to the United States in order to find out about recent methods in vocational education. The visit to a library was an added attraction which proved enlightening for all concerned.

North End

Dorothy Dodworth's painting of the late Captain John Tello, of the North End, has been accepted for the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh exhibition in the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh. This watercolor, and one other, will be on exhibit until the end of March. The painting was done from a sketch made on one of frequent lunch hour excursions to the harbor. Miss Dodworth enjoyed getting acquainted with Captain Tello, who owned the "Plover", a small boat docked at Lewis Wharf. He told her many interesting tales, including an account of the time he had Joseph Cotten and Jennifer Jones on his boat during the filming of "A Portrait of Jenny." Captain Tello died suddenly just before Christmas, so the picture will probably be given to the family.

William R. Scott, Inc., will publish a children's book in the fall written and illustrated by Dorothy Dodworth, who is working as a probationary assistant in the children's room.

West End

The services of a public library cannot always be measured. The results of a library's services are sometimes not immediately obvious. There is no question that the habits of good reading and study which a library subtly encourages are of the intangible values which crop up later. Many authors pay tribute on maturity to the place of the library in their childhood, but many more have overlooked the fact that the library was to a large extent instrumental in their success in later life.

On Saturday evening, February 13, a large audience joyfully welcomed back a home-town girl who had made good in the Big City, and paid tribute to one who as a child growing up in the West End at the turn of the century had made this branch library a second home--Reba Paeff Mirsky. After graduation from Radcliffe, she married and went to live in New York where she teaches music at Hunter College and the New York School for Social

Research.

Mrs Mirsky told in a most enthusiastic manner of her writing of Thirty-one Brothers and Sisters without ever going to Zululand and of her subsequent four-months' visit there on a Guggenheim fellowship. Although she appreciated the winning of the Charles W. Follett $3,000 and gold medal for this, her first book, she said: "What thrills and moves me more than anything is that I am honored by a reception in the very library which I haunted daily as a child, a high-school girl, and college student." She is now writing a sequel to her book.

A noteworthy feature of the evening was the presentation of Negro-African music especially adapted for the occasion by Dr William Andrew Rhodes, who was the first Negro composer to graduate from the Boston Conservatory of Music. The soloists were Mrs Georgie Williams Bailey, soprano, and Angelyn DeVaughn, contralto, members of the Ebony Artistic Trio.

Allan R. Crite, well-known Boston artist, whose paintings appear in the collections of many major cities, had several strikingly beautiful and religiously appealing paintings on display. Besides being a creative painter, Mr Crite has written three books on art. He was present and received the tribute paid him with a most becoming modesty.

The chairman of the evening, Judge Robinson, husband of Beryl Robinson of Adams Street, had been called out of town because of the death of his mother. Very fortunately a graduate student at BU, a member of the Ibo Tribe of Nigeria, was available and did an excellent job of pinch hitting. He was Al (for Albert) Chinedozi (God prepares) ?Anonye (Over whom are you rejoicing?). His delightful singing in his native tongue was particularly pleasing.

Mrs Clarence E. Beck, Grand Basileus, brought greetings from the Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, joint sponsors with the Library of the evening's program.

Fanny Goldstein gave a brief history of the Old West Church and Patrick F. McDonald spoke as President of the Library's Board of Trustees.

Hostesses and pourers, in addition to the West End Staff, included one other BPL staff member, Elizabeth M. Gordon, Mrs Robinson had also been scheduled to serve. A social hour completed a highly successful evening.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

Dear Soap Boxers:

For what seems like uncounted years now, we have been reading in the Soap Box the cries and lamentations of the persecuted and maligned, until at last I, for one, am becoming a bit fed up with it all. If it isn't our rate of pay, the inadequacies of Supervisors, dirt in the kitchen and restrooms, or our promotional system, it is persecution from the Personnel Office, Communist literature in the Boston Public Library, pro and con, or the unbearable heat in the summertime. I'll never forget the floods of inky tears shed over the fact that we poor souls were actually forced to receive our pay by check. Such hardship!

From the similarity in style of these epistles, it would appear that there exists somewhere in our midst a coterie whose every waking thought is to "needle" the Administration, and that they have no other business except to do so. I must admit that a little needling is amusing and even stimulating, but eventually it becomes annoying and boresome. Everyone, of course, is entitled to a gripe or two during his or her lifetime, but when it comes to the point where "NO prospect pleases, and every man (above the fourth step level) is vile", the complainers should realize that they cease to be crusaders, and approach the condition of paranoiacs. Certainly there must be SOMETHING in the BPL and its Administra-

tion that these letter-writers like. Otherwise they would seek greener pastures where their crusading zeal could accomplish more. If it is lack of occupation that renders these correspondents so facile at writing out their complaints, let them apply for a position in any of the Branches, even the smallest. After a few weeks of pacifying unreasonable adults, battling juvenile delinquents, and preventing story hours from developing into riots, they will find themselves too "bushed" in their leisure hours to have the energy to complain about anything less catastrophic than a major salary cut.

Yours for a little more sweetness and light,

Pollyanna Picklepuss

To the Editor:

I would like to know how the library is saving money on the proposed change of Branch Library hours.

If the personnel are allowed to work in the building with the doors closed to the public, the heat, light and janitorial services are still needed.

If we must close the library to the public why can't we close two nights a week and continue Saturday morning closings throughout the year. By doing this a real saving would be realized not alone in personnel but extra and janitorial services, heat and light.

If the tax-payer realized what these savings would mean to him he would accept this proposition.

Must we accept this proposed change of the Trustees or can something more constructive be put into action.

Anxious to Know

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

I have just learned how to make jello. I had long admired the colors, even more than the taste of the quivering dessert, but I always thought it took lots of work and special culinary know-how to make it. Recently my neighbor gave me some she had made that morning, and since her kitchen facilities are no better than mine (a single electric hot plate), I asked her how she managed it, and she showed me how very simple it was. You take a box of jello (9 cents), empty it into a glass dish, pour over it one cup of hot water, stir mildly, add a cup of cold water, and set the thing on the window-sill (in the winter, that is), and presto, the next morning you have a beautiful formation of jello. So I made some one day, and the next evening, as I was supping off my first try, I pondered on the ease with which some things can be done which seem so difficult at a distance, and being a sort of philosopher, I tried to apply my new nugget of wisdom to the problems currently besetting us. Just at that time the Library was being agitated by rumors of the imminent appointment of a successor in the long-vacant position of Chief Librarian of the Circulation Division. There was considerable difference of opinion as to the merits of the known candidates, and a deadlock, extending all the way from stack six to the basement, developed as to who should get it--one side holding that the job should go to the outsider with no experience in the BPL, and the other that it belonged to the insider, whose lack of experience merely extended to the Division he was aspiring to head. Suddenly, right in the middle of a cold slide of a segment of my handiwork in my insides, I said to myself (I live alone, so I can talk to myself without causing comment), "How about you? Why don't you apply for that job?", and since I was eating the entire dish of jello I had made (equivalent to about 4 restaurant portions), I had time to develop the theme at length. It's not easy to apply for a job which hasn't been listed as vacant. I didn't know whether application should be made to the Supervisor of Personnel, or the Director, or the Trustees. I finally hit on the brilliant idea of applying through a medium which will reach all those people at once--about the fifteenth of the month. Read this brilliant idea of mine in the next paragraph.

Some time ago, when an outsider was appointed to head an important segment of the Library, a well-known member of the staff wrote a characteristically forthright letter to the Question Mark, saying that though he was passing no judgment on the appointee's qualifications for that position, he did think it strange that the job should have been given to one outside the Library, and even outside the library profession. A member of the Administration replied in the following issue of the Question Mark, that in positions of such importance the

Trustees did not feel themselves bound by the ordinary promotional procedures set up by the Administration. Most of us accepted that answer as a fair and almost satisfactory statement of the policy followed. Now I have heard it said that turnabout is fair play, and I therefore think that whenever such top positions become vacant again, the candidates for those positions be allowed the same freedom from the orthodox procedures in application as the Administration has been taking in appointment. There now exists a vacancy in the position of Chief Librarian of the Circulation Division, and I should like to apply for it in a new and unorthodox way--through the columns of our staff magazine. I therefore hereby make application through this letter to the Soap Box.

There is no space to list the qualifications for that position, nor which of those qualifications I think myself to possess. In general positions of that sort should go to people who represent the best traditions of our Library. The best traditions of a great Library like ours, to adapt an Eliotism, do not necessarily flow through the longest tenures, the wordiest titles, or the most inflated increments. I have seen those traditions flow in rich, luxurious stream in a recent arrival, on whose lips the Simmons milk has not yet gone entirely dry, and issue in a lilliputian chigger of a trickle in one who has been around since "the year one"; I have seen them in richness and power in one who is barely graduated out of the category of extra, and become the shadow of a shadow in one whose titularities blockbust a couple of alphabets; and I have seen them flow with vigor and pride in one whose pay was once, in a foolish show of economy, reduced from 25 to 24 cents an hour, and come to a dead stop in one whose weekly take from the public till would feed a Pakistani village. And once in a long while, these traditions are forced to abandon the main route and, like the Avignon papacy, flow with adequacy and legitimacy through an outlying province.

Harry Andrews

Dear Soap Box Editor:

On the last day of the Senate hearings on juvenile delinquency, the Chairman, Senator Robert F. Hendrickson, said to the representative of the Housing Authority then testifying that it is true we do not hear enough about the positive side of the picture.

At such a time, would it not have been enlightening to the community at large as well as to the committee to know that the Boston Public Library has played a positive part in making juvenile non delinquents 98% of the youth population?

Could not a high ranking officer of the library have taken his place beside the spokesmen for the educational, recreational, spiritual, and welfare institutions of this city and told of our service to the sensitive areas of the housing projects by bookmobiles and the establishment of a branch library in one of them? Certainly the committee would have appreciated knowing about the planned individual and group service to children, to young adults, to parents. Without such pertinent testimony there remains untempered the repeated statements that the young people are being exposed to obscene and lurid literature in Boston.

How else could the Investigating Committee learn that the branch librarians and those librarians who work with young adults had had meetings at which expert social workers had defined the reasons for anti-social behavior and suggested new approaches to reach these young people so in need of understanding and acceptance?

It seems to me that this kind of presentation would have strengthened the support we derive from the Friends of the Library, from the City Council, from every member of this community, in and beyond this Centennial Year.

Pauline Winnick

LATE FLASH!

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Phoebe Lipsky, Office of Div. of H. R. & C. S., to Harold Reff, of New York City.

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(SIGNED) CHARLES DEVENS
1954 Campaign Chairman

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

MARCH 1954

THE QUESTION MARK

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Publications Committee: Gerald L. Ball, John J. McCafferty, Sheila Pierce
Sarah M. Usher, Charles J. Gillis, Chairman

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EDITOR'S CORNER

Periodically the various members of the Publications Committee are confronted with the task of preparing this section of The Question Mark. This has become a difficult matter, for it seems that it is practically impossible to find something to talk about editorially that will not alienate at least half the staff from the writer. Outspoken attitudes, either pro or con, anything, will distress the peaceful; pussyfooting or gushing will incense the warlike; discreet middle-roading will offend nobody, but impress few more. We are this year practically a holdover Publications Committee--we have been through the mill. We have heard the same issue of QM called 'nice' by some and snarled at as fawning sychophancy by others. What is worse, we have heard anguished complaints like: (1) QM makes the world's worst reading; (2) nobody looks forward to it any more; or (3) what's wrong with you people anyway? Well we hope there's nothing wrong with us, and we frankly feel that there's nothing wrong with The Question Mark, either. We don't, in our capacity, write the QM. We cultivate it, prune it, as it were. We await what you send to us and make the most of it. If on occasion you, and we, have had to be disappointed by what came of our efforts, we could remark, with the optimism of the bride whose cake fell, that while it wasn't very good, it was still better than nothing. To you who criticize the literary level or the points-of-view of our contributions we give assurance that, if what you have seen has upset you, you have, through our vigilance, been spared much worse. To you who complain that nobody looks forward to QM any more we send the reminder that the reason the 15th of the month used to be such a red letter day was unquestionably the Soap Box, wherein some heroic battles were waged. If the Soap Box no longer offers such sizzling duels, it must mean that we have grown sleek, fat and contented. (I am sure that some may disagree with this conclusion.) From you who ask what's wrong with us, we ask in return only for your contributions. The Question Mark is what you, the staff, make of it. Here's to better and better issues with your help!

John McCafferty

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 25. Thursday	SLA meeting at V. A. Hospital, So. Huntington Avenue at Heath Street, at 7:30 p.m.
April 8	Boston Chapter, Women's National Book Association, organization meeting, Pioneer, 7:45 p.m.

PERSONAL NOTES

Resignations

Mary Ann Gelsomini, Cataloging and Classification, Div of R. and R.S. to remain at home

Mrs Katherine M. Murphy, Business Office, to remain at home

Transfers

Lillian E. Lagamasino, from South Boston to Orient Heights

Olive Neilson, from Orient Heights to Allston

Engagements

The engagement of Helen F. Beeman, Personnel Office, to Harry D. Karpeles, Assistant Executive Director of Hecht House in Dorchester, has been announced. An April wedding is planned

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Susan Shelvin, Audio-Visual, to Vincent O. Trunfio.

WE WELCOME BACK AFTER ILLNESSES

Mrs Evelyn Herboldsheimer, Dorchester
Ruth Stenstreem and Abraham Snyder, Cataloging and Classification, Div. of R.&R.S.

MILITARY SERVICE

David Sheehan, Book Stack Service, has returned after almost two years service in the U.S. Army.

STAFF IN PRINT

In the Boston GLOBE for February 24, in the "What People Talk About" column, there appeared a letter on train whistles, by Henry Bowditch Jones, Book Stack Service. It appeared also in the "People's Forum", of the Boston TRAVELER.

WEDDING

February 20 was a beautiful, spring-like day, perfect for the wedding of Mary G. Lavery and Joseph S. Cataldo, Stock and Supplies Section. The couple was married at St Mary of the Assumption Church, Brookline, at 3:30 in the afternoon. The bride looked lovely in a gown of azure blue lace. Her hat and gloves, a delicate shade of pink, complemented the gown. Blue slippers completed her outfit. Mrs Cataldo was attended by her maid of honor, Barbara Page, who wore a gown of dusty pink taffeta and tuille. Jeremiah P. Driscoll, the brother-in-law of the groom, was his best man. The ceremony was made more impressive by the fact that Mrs Cataldo's sister, Margaret, became the bride of Leo Lyons, thus making a double wedding ceremony. Following the Nuptials, a reception for the two couples was given at the Metropolitan Hall in Brighton. Mr and Mrs Cataldo then left for a honeymoon in Washington, D.C. Best wishes are sent to the happy couple from their friends at the Library.

Catherine T. Duffy

CALLING ALL LADIES!

Plans are underway for the establishment of a Boston charter of the Women's National Book Association (WNBA). This organization has been active since 1917, with the home office in New York and flourishing chapters in Chicago and Cleveland. To launch the Boston Chapter an open meeting will be held at The Pioneer on Thursday, April 8, 1954, at 7:45 PM. Miss Mary Shipley, National President, will be on hand to describe the aims and purposes of the organization. Mr Frank Rounds, author of Window on Red Square will be the guest speaker.

The main objective of the Association is to bring together socially and profesionally all women who earn their living directly or indirectly by means of the book. Library workers, publishers, editors, authors, illustrators, book store workers, etc.

If you are interested in attending the meeting on April 8, please contact Miss Peck, Book Selection H.R.&C.S. Attendance at this meeting does not automatically imply membership. After Miss Shipley has outlined the objectives of the Association an opportunity will be provided for those who wish to do so to become charter member

JOHN M. CARROLL HONORED

John M. Carroll, Chief Librarian of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, was honored at the meeting of departments chief of the Division of Reference and Research Services on March second. He was presented with a brief case and a Holy Grail picture from the Division as a whole and with a clock from the Division Office staff, with the good wishes of his former Division staff members as he assumes his new office.

NEWBERY-CALDECOTT MEDALS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

On March 8, in the New York office of Frederic G. Melcher, donor of the medals, Virginia Haviland, Chairman of the Newbery-Caldecott Awards Committee, made the preliminary presentation of the medals to the winners:

Newbery--Joseph Krumgold
for ... and now Miguel
Caldecott--Ludwig Bemelmans
for Madeline's Rescue

Official presentation of the medals will take place at the Newbery-Caldecott Awards dinner in connection with the ALA annual conference in Minneapolis in June.

SPORTS NEWS

Basketball

On Saturday mornings the B.P.L. basketball squad meets at the M.I.T. gymnasium in tune with the year-round sports activity program. A rugged workout is enjoyed by many male staff members--especially when one can look forward to a refreshing shower and snack afterwards.

The members are divided into two squads. One squad consists of-

L.F. Dan (Bob Brannum)Kelly--Audio-Visual
R.F. Walter (Jim Pollard) Harris--Book Purchasing
C. Don (Clyde Lovelette) Newman--Book Purchasing
L.G. Paul (Dick McGuire) Smith--Book Purchasing
R.G. Jerry (Andy Phillip) Hottleman--Book Purchasing

The other squad consists of-

L.F. Larry (Connie Simmons) Sindoni--Book Stack Service
R.F. Art (Carl Braun) Lindsay--Exhibits Office
C. Dick (Ed MacAuley) Stanton--Business Office
L.G. Bob (Bill Sharman) Anglin--Book Stack Service
R.G. Dave (Bob Cousy) Shedd--Book Stack Service

Many hard-fought battles are staged on the court, but the "best" ????? team always comes out on top.

Outstanding players include--

Don Newman for his rebounding
Dan Kelly for his aggresiveness and spirit
Dick Stanton and Wally Harris for their high-scoring feats
Larry Sindoni for his deadly hook shot
Bob Anglin for his play-making
Paul Smith for his tricky ball handling
Art Lindsay for his sportsmanship
Dave Shedd for his clutch play
Jerry Hottleman for his all-around play

The MOST VALUAPLE players award goes this year to-----Don Newman who performed like an ALL * STAR in his freshman year of "pro ball". He will receive for this award--a tryout with the Baltimore Bullets. Scouts from professional teams are on hand at each game to scout the outstanding prospects.

Any members of the staff interested in witnessing this "spectacle", please contact Manager Paul (Red Auerbach) Mulloney--Science and Technology for RESERVATIONS.

Bowling League

The Bowling League is now in its fifth successful season of competition, and this fifth anniversary is being marked by the acquisition of fine sports jackets, and sweaters, paid for out of the League treasury.

Les hommes' have arrived--reversible jackets of navy blue wool on one side and gold satin on the reverse. A medallion, in the shape of a shield with bowling pins and ball, is affixed to the front of the blue side and each proud owner's name in bold block letters is found on the left sleeve. The bowler's name in script appears on the right sleeve of the gold side.

Les femmes' sweaters, haven't been received yet, but the gals are looking forward to seeing and wearing them, knowing they will be very attractive.

There has been much favorable comment from all concerning this fine-looking sports apparel and the lucky owners feel justly proud to "sport" them.

Many thanks to Jack Kyle of the Stock and Supplies Section and Dan Kelly of Audio-Visual for handling all the arrangements.

The Bowling League has had a great "lift" in receiving these prizes, and we all hope that it will be an added incentive for more new bowlers to come out for the league next season.

BPLPSA RECEPTION FOR OFFICERS

The annual reception for the officers of the Association was held on March 2, in the Lecture Hall. Edna G. Peck, chairman of the Program Committee, welcomed members and guests and introduced the officers present. The officers then formed a receiving line at the front of the hall and were greeted by fellow association members while May McDonald and the Entertainment Committee served fruit punch and most attractive and eminently edible pastries.

Following the reception, Mr O'Neil, the re-elected president, welcomed members and guests, among whom were Patrick F. McDonald, President of the Board of Trustees, his sister, Mary McDonald, and Milton E. Lord, Director. Mr McDonald, speaking in representation of the Trustees, expressed his warm appreciation of the staff and its work.

Miss Peck introduced Mrs Edith H. Bailey with a few brief remarks about their mutual days together at Phillips Brooks. Mrs Bailey and her daughter, Ruth, also formerly at Phillips Brooks and now director of religious education at a large Minneapolis church, had spent six months in traveling around the world. For this evening Mrs Bailey showed pictures and talked only of the trip from Greece to Istambul, Ankara, along the Mediterannean, Beirut, and then Bombay, Delhi and Kashmir. As the Bailey's were able, through many church and State Department contacts, to visit and stay at many of the schools and universities, and visit in native homes, the slides were particularly interesting and the audience learned much that the average tourist never sees or hears.

It was particularly pleasant to greet so many of our "alumnae" who came back to share the evening with former co-workers.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Last July in the editorial columns of The Question Mark it was suggested that the establishment of a staff blood bank might be an excellent way in which we could help our fellow workers and it was urged that we give thought to this proposal as a very powerful way in which we could "assist our fellow workers when they or members of their immediate family sorely need help."

We discovered that we were eligible to belong to the City of Boston Employees Blood Donor Program and that both the Library and the City of Boston were very generous and cooperative in allowing time for this program. We have tried to keep staff members aware of this program through the pages of The Question Mark. Up to this time the number of staff members who have taken this opportunity to help themselves and their families is very small. Pledging a blood donation is a personal, individual decision yet it reaches far beyond the insurance it provides for the person and his family since it makes available a backlog to help in civilian disasters and military necessities. If you have been intending to pledge a donation and have let it slide, why delay any longer? Do it now.

*

The Executive Board late last year urged that the Staff Centennial Gift Committee consider a proposal that the Centennial Gift of the Staff be presented to the Library in memory of the Library's World War II dead. At the next meeting of the Committee which had a quorum present, the proposal was very favorably received. At some time in the future when the staff will be given an opportunity to help select the Centennial Gift, the proposal to remember our World War II dead in our Centennial Gift will also be presented to the entire staff.

*

At its February meeting the Executive Board appointed John J. McCafferty, General Reference, as Publicity Director for the Association. The Publicity Director's duties include securing favorable publicity for the Association and its activities both within and outside the Library.

*

A gentle reminder: Dues for 1954 are now payable, 50¢ to the Staff Representatives. Staff Representatives will please send the dues, well-wrapped to Mary A. Hackett, Treasurer, Parker Hill. And please be patient if the receipts and membership cards are delayed somewhat. It takes time to make accurate records and receipts for some 450 members.

B. Joseph O'Neil

BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM

The Red Cross Blood Donor Center at 314 Dartmouth St. (near Marlborough) is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M.; on Tuesday from 2 P.M. to 8 P.M., and on Thursday from 11 A.M. to 8 P.M. Donors are accepted until 15 minutes before closing time.

Staff members donating blood under the City of Boston Blood Donor Program are allowed 4 hours for this purpose by the Library.

Call Mrs Wollent at Extension 244 and arrange to make a pledge to the Red Cross Blood Donor Program.

TAKE A BOW

A bouquet to Mary Ann Gelsomini of Cataloging and Classification (R.&R.S.) for her valuable assistance at the Association's business meetings since 1952. Miss Gelsomini has taken verbatim accounts by Stenotype and helped greatly in providing a complete and accurate record of the meetings. Take a bow, Mary.

CENTENNIAL NOTES

MLA Presents Citation

At the mid-winter meeting of the Massachusetts Library Association, held at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel on February 18, President Philip J. McNiff presented the Boston Public Library with a citation on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary. The citation was accepted for the Library by Milton E. Lord, Director, who made appropriate comments on the work of the Library.

COOKS IN PRINT
"Makes" Syndicated Column

In the Boston Evening AMERICAN on March 8, Dr Ida Bailey Allen, in her column Let's Eat, under the caption New England Dishes Featured, began with these words: "IT'S NEWS when an important public library puts out a cookbook!" She went on to describe the cover, and after reminiscing about early visits to the BPL and paying tribute to its collections, she included two recipes in her Tomorrow's Dinner taken from COOKS IN PRINT--Squash Muffins and Marlborough Pie.

The title of the book was not given, nor was the price, but as of March 11 two inquiries concerning it have been received--the first one from Baltimore, Maryland, and the second from Toledo, Ohio. It is interesting to note that this syndicated column, to quote its author, "breaks nationwide, in Canada, Australia, Bermuda and Hong Kong."

Centennial Billboards

Through the courtesy of the Donnelly Advertising Company ninety billboards will shortly bring to the attention of the public the campaign for funds which is being undertaken in connection with the Centennial Celebration. The billboards are located through the greater Boston area. C. Robert Perrin, of 40 Bromfield Street, Boston, designed the poster as a public service.

Library Honored

The Massachusetts Society of Colonial Dames paid tribute to the Library's Centennial Anniversary at its March meeting which took place on the eleventh at the Society's headquarters, 55 Beacon Street. A particularly attractive exhibit had been assembled and set up by Rare Book and the Exhibits Office. It consisted of items published prior to 1805 and of special interest to women: Historic letters, rare books, including the Eliot Bible and the Bay Psalm Book, manuscripts and covenants, children's books, courtesy books, and writings of early American women authors.

The principal speaker was Milton E. Lord, whose subject was: "The Boston Public Library, One of New England's Great Treasure Houses."

SOMEWHERE IN THE LIBRARY . . .

5. Somewhere in the Library there hang copies of four American historical documents. Affixed to each document are autograph signatures of the signers taken from letters and documents. Can you name the four documents and give their location?

6. The location of the Library, Copley Square, is named after the painter John Singleton Copley. Somewhere in the Library there is a painting by Copley. Can you locate it?

7. The Library has two portraits of Benjamin Franklin that hang close by each other in similar frames. One portrait is by Joseph S. Duplessis; the other is "said to be by Jean Baptiste Greuze". Can you locate these portraits?

8. In 1835 some citizens of Boston pre-

sented Daniel Webster with a silver vase in commemoration of his defense of the Constitution. The vase, of pure coin silver has a height of 13 3/4 inches and a diameter of 14 3/8 inches. It was presented to the Library in 1865. This vase now stands upon a mantel of white Sienna marble. Can you give its location?

9. Do you know at what number Dartmouth Street the Library stands?

Answers to February Questions

1. On the rib between the lunette and the arch at the north end of Sargent Hall.

2. Over the entrance to the Teachers' Dept.; over the entrance to the Abbey Room; over the arch as one descends the staircase from the Sargent Corridor to the Puvis de Chavannes Corridor.

3. On the walls of the Teachers Department.

4. The dome of the Pompeian Lobby at the entrance to the Abbey Room.

CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NEW ENGLAND UNIT

Two meetings were held in February. The first was on the sixth at the Archbishop Cushing Educational Clinic. Sister Mary Immacula, the Librarian, gave a brief outline of the problems of building a library for children with reading difficulties. A visit through the Library and study rooms revealed all modern equipment for testing readability and for correction of eye defects. Although most of the 200 students registered are children, older men and women are enrolled for individual courses. Zoltán Haraszti, Rare Book, gave an interesting talk on the nature, evaluation and purchasing of rare books. Many of the librarians present (particularly those not of the BPL) expressed their pleasure and planned to visit the Treasure Room in the very near future.

On February 20, the annual Book Forum and Fair was held in the New England Mutual Hall. Thomas V. Reiners, Librarian at Boston College, Chairman of the New England Unit, opened the Forum. Mary Alice Rea, Book Purchasing, arranged and directed the program. The four speakers were Dr Nathaniel Hasenfus, author of Marie goes to the zoo, Mary K. Corbett, author of Girl of Urbino, Mrs Helen Walker Homan, author of Star of Jacob, and Hon. Charles McKew Parr, author of So noble a captain.

Dr Hasenfus pointed out the value of introducing good books and stories to children at a very early age. Miss Corbett told of life of women and girls in the Middle Ages in Italy. Mrs Homan chose for her topic, Some Missionary Pioneers, and Senator Parr paid a stirring tribute to Ferdinand Magellan, the hero of his book.

Essays written by school children were read and posters displayed. One of the topics of the essay contest was If I should lose my library card, and all manner of dire consequences were imagined and stressed if this tragic event occurred.

After the meeting the 800 guests present visited the various book displays and the authors autographed books.

Anna L. Manning

MLA MID-WINTER MEETING
Sheraton-Plaza Hotel
Thursday, February 18, 1954

Sidelights and Highlights

1. Announcement by Mr Lord of a conference of trustees planned by the Executive Board of the Massachusetts Library Trustees Association.

2. Clarence R. Graham, Librarian of the Louisville Public Library, spoke on The Library: Blueprint for the Future. Mr Graham said that he did not suggest a change in the traditional function of the library--that is, a communication center--but that its traditional goals should be implemented in terms of the late twentieth century. He specifically urged that the public library should serve all parts of the community, by means of the printed word and other media. The axiom "A thinking man does not commit suicide" pointed up the concept of the public library as a depository of materials for self-education. The main focus of public libraries must be to provide the opportunity for, and stimulation to, self-education.

This concept has brought about experimentation in many fields. In Louisville, modern advances in communication media have been used to advantage--microfilms, microcards, recordings, educational radio broadcasts (on tape and discs), forums, lectures, and artifacts. Other libraries have used teletype and facsimile services, leased telephone lines for classroom education, and television programs. Even lowly water-pipes are being considered as a means of electrical conductors to transmit information to every urban home.

Mr Graham advocates an entirely new idea in self-education, which for lack of a better name he terms "City Agents." Rural areas have been helped by agricultural technicians and advisors, known as "County Agents." These County Agents assist farmers in developing their areas. The "City Agents" might assist in developing city areas. The agents could be based in Branch Libraries and work toward developing the neighborhood by helping small business, by home demonstrations, and by other means. Each agent would be a member of a city-wide council, dedicated to a complete saturation of the community with self-education. A final result of this program would be a decrease in vocational education and an increase in education in the humanities.

3. Dr Robert G. Hyde, Assistant Superintendent, Boston Psychopathic Hospital, spoke on Librarians are Human Beings. Dr Hyde described the typical small-town librarian of the past--a lady he knew in Vermont during his boyhood. He analyzed her reasons for becoming a librarian--her love of books and her sense of protection of books from people, her wish to retire into a quiet and secluded atmosphere. These are the reasons he gave for her choice of vocation.

The modern librarian, Dr Hyde thinks, is subject to emotional conflicts which must be overcome if she is to give satisfactory service to the public. Some of the questions which must be resolved to this end are: What does the librarian expect of people? What do the patrons expect of the librarian? What do the Trustees expect of the librarian?

The stress and conflict to which librarians are subject can best be solved by self-examination and the realization of her essential humanness. Editor's Note: For further information, read Dr Hyde's article in Reader's Digest, January, 1954, p. 83-87.

4. The luncheon speech given by Virgilia Peterson will be covered in the spring number of the MLA bulletin.

First Joint Meeting

The first joint meeting of the Round Table of Children's Librarians, the Round Table of Librarians for Young Adults, and the New England Book Council was presided over by Elizabeth Handy.

The main speaker was John D. Coughlan, Director of the State's Division of Youth Service. In his topic Some Implications of Delinquency, Mr Coughlan gave the audience a clear and comprehensive picture of the work of the Youth Service Board. He set forth the philosophy and aims of the Board, which revolve around the idea that the juvenile delinquent, aged 7 to 17, is not a criminal but an educable individual who needs and wants help. It stresses the need of preventive education, rather than corrective treatment.

The work of the Board, organized in 1948, begins after the court has found the youngster guilty. Unless the judge suspends sentence, the Board takes over. First, an individual study is made of the school, family and neighborhood conditions. Next, the delinquent is committed, not sentenced, to a detention home or open training school. The Board is careful to stress in all cases that the delinquent is not "sentenced to jail", and is not a criminal. No criminal record is built up by the transgressions of a delinquent.

The Board, formed of professional persons who know and understand young people, is aided in its work by an advisory committee appointed by the Governor. Mr Coughlan pointed out that in the five years of the operation of the Board, not one case of dope addiction by a juvenile delinquent has come to its attention. Also, that in the recent invasion of a Girl's Training School by an armed group of five boys, not one of the boys had ever been under the jurisdiction of the Youth

Service Board. Mr Coughlan believes that rehabilitation rather than incarceration is the way to solve the problem of juvenile delinquency.

A capacity audience welcomed the question period which followed.

Edward J. Cullinane

College Libraries Group

Professor Helen M. Cam, who came to Radcliffe in 1948 after a period of over twenty years as professor of history at Cambridge University in England, spoke on the differences in the practices of university libraries in England and America.

The English libraries, for the most part, are not open in the evenings. The longer hours of the American libraries is a considerable convenience for library users. With few exceptions, the English libraries do not have financial resources for purchasing books comparable to the resources of the American libraries; one would not therefore find the wide coverage of both American and English authors in the English libraries as one finds in the American libraries. The English universities, in general, have closed stacks, Cambridge University being an exception. The English libraries do not have card catalogs; they use book catalogs, some of which are in manuscript.

Professor Cam gave a few criticisms of American university libraries. From her experience in using them, she concluded that one can never be sure of finding key reference books when one needs them, because permission is frequently given for professors and students to remove these works from their regular place and keep them for extended periods at their library study desks. She felt it is a disadvantage to researchers for a library to allow the circulation from the library of large numbers of books. The speaker called to question the value of a subject catalog; in her opinion it is almost impossible to make an adequate subject catalog, and therefore it might be better not to have any subject catalog at all.

Professor Cam quite readily conceded that The United States is far ahead of England in the art and science of bibliography.

Paul V. Moynihan

Hospital Librarians

For the first time, public library service to the hospitalized was presented as a topic at an M.L.A. meeting. In recogniation of the Centennial year of B.P.L., Mrs Mary Langton, Hospital Library Service, was invited to speak on Service to the Boston City Hospital. Mrs Langton presented an account of the very real achievements accomplished during the nine short months of the Branch's existence. She spoke of the specialized equipment necessary in such an activity, of the warm reception by the patients, and of the solid satisfaction felt by the hospital officials with the work that has been done. The doctors are especially pleased with its effect on long-term patients and those who require complete rest. Mrs Langton closed with remarks on the importance of hospital library service and the high priority such extension work should be given by library systems expanding their services to the community.

The second speaker, Edna Phillips, Morrill Memorial Library, Norwood, spoke on the general subject Public Library Service to Hospitals, making special references to the activities of the Morrill Memorial Library of Norwood at the Norwood Hospital, where public library extension work has been carried on for some time.

Adult Education Section

The section meeting was devoted to a panel discussion of the American Library Association "American Heritage Program". This project was revealed by the panel members, as a nation-wide program to aid in setting up discussion groups in libraries. The Program is sponsored by the Fund for Adult Education and this Fund is financed by the Ford Foundation.

HYDE PARK CELEBRATES EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The Hyde Park Branch celebrated the eightieth anniversary of library service in the community on Wednesday evening March 3, at eight o'clock. The chairman for the program was John J. Buckley, a teacher at the Hyde Park High School. The Director brought greetings from the Trustees, in the absence of Patrick F.

McDonald, President of the Board, who was unable to be present. The main address was given by Milton E. Lord, Director, and music was furnished by the Hyde Park "Y" Community Chorus. Others to take part in the program were Nancy Fennessey, who read a poem written for the original dedicatory program in 1874, and William Powers who read an historical sketch. Refreshments were served at the close of the program. In spite of the inclement weather over one hundred and fifty persons attended the celebration. Among those attending was a lady who had used the Hyde Park Library for seventy-five of the eighty years it has been in existence.

A BIT OF ERIN

In connection with the observance of the Library's centennial anniversary the Friends of the Adams Street Branch Library presented on March 10 an Irish program entitled "A bit of Erin". It was attended by over three hundred members of the community.

The program was arranged by Mrs Francis P. Carroll, Chairman of the March meeting. Mrs Carroll, who is active in the Eire Society and is head of the Folk Dance group of that society, also arranged an exhibit of Irish arts and crafts which were of great interest to everyone.

Among those contributing to the event were Florence M. Garrity, a member of the Library's Examining Committee, Past President of the Eire Society, and one-time member of the Library staff. Miss Garrity showed colored slides of Ireland, showing homes, gardens, and places of historical interest.

Mr Milton E. Lord, Director, made a fine speech of welcome and thanks to the group, and brought greetings from the Trustees, in the absence of Patrick F. McDonald, President of the Board, who was unable to attend.

Traditional Irish folk songs were sung by James McCarthy of Somerville and his three children. There was dancing by the Tara Step Dancers and the Eire Society Folk Dance group. Mrs Anna MacKenzie Smith, well-known in the community of Dorchester, sang a group of Irish songs. Master James Pasztor, a nine-year-old boy from Brookline, played Irish melodies on his harp.

Three lovely Irish ballads were sung by Mary Ellen Sheehan, who is Supervisor of Music in the Watertown elementary schools.

Last, but certainly not least, was the shanachie Ruth M. Hayes, Branch Librarian, who held her audience spell-bound with her wonderful telling of an old Irish folk tale.

The program concluded with community singing and refreshments which included, of course, Irish Bread.

LUNCHEON FOR MRS ANNE DOLAN

On Tuesday March 2, a surprised Anne Dolan was greeted by a group of her library friends gathered at the Hotel Vendome for a lunch in her honor. Mrs Dolan was soon to leave the service of the library. After a delicious luncheon, Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor, in Charge of Work with Adults, expressed everyone's appreciation of Anne as a friend and co-worker. Then, she presented the guest of honor with a Reed & Barton Town and Country sterling silver creamer and sugar and sugar tongs as a permanent memento from all her library friends.

ALL SORTS by Joe Harrington
Boston POST--October 24, 1953

Every midday the Boston Public Library's bookmobile is parked on the Tremont St. mall of the Boston Common, with all and sundry invited to do some reading. The girls who work in one of the nearby stores, and are steady customers of this ambulating library, call it "The Flying Chaucer."

CARE

Our CARE program continues with the emphasis on Korea and refugees from behind the Iron Curtain. Any contribution, no matter how small a sacrifice it may be to you, means new hope and life to someone in need.

Staff Representatives: Please send remittances to Walter J. Bluhm, chairman, Special Committee for CARE, Periodical and Newspaper Department.

Being late is a habit
Being early is a gift

IN MEMORIAM

These few words can scarcely express the deep loss that the Library has suffered in the passing of Mrs Evelyn Grosbayne Green on March 11th. Her deep sense of loyalty to her many friends, to her religious affiliations as a teacher in Sunday school, and to the library profession, was an inspiration to all who knew and loved her. A dynamic and vibrant individual, she brought her warm-hearted personality into library walls and transferred her love and knowledge of books to the thousands of library borrowers she served through many years in the South Boston and Jamaica Plain districts. She exemplified the true spirit of librarianship, the human factor so important in any profession. She left no stone unturned in creating an interest in books among library patrons by using every medium--reading clubs, poster, exhibits, book reviewing, and as leader of a Great Books Club that recently completed its fifth year with many of the original group.

Above and beyond her work was her tremendous capacity for friendship. The quotation, "There is nothing worth the winning except the laughter and love of friends" was her credo of living. For those in need of sympathy and understanding, Evelyn was ready to help, not in words but in deeds. Although she left a void that can never be filled, she also left infinitely more to her friends in the principles of living--integrity, loyalty, and devotion to any cause for the good. As was so finely expressed by her spiritual advisor, "Whether we live a year or a thousand years, it is only what we accomplish here for the good that is recorded in the stars."

Mary L. Gilman
Evelyn C. Marden

A WORD OF THANKS

Mr Louis Green and the Grosbayne family have asked that there be expressed through the columns of The Question Mark their heart-felt gratitude to those who so generously donated blood during the recent illness of Evelyn Grosbayne Green.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction--Library Science

American Library Association
Summary reports of 1954 midwinter meetings, January 31-February 6. Chicago, American Library Association, 1954

Illinois Library Association
Conference manual, by Marguerite Giezentanner and others
Chicago, Illinois Library Association, 1954

DEPARTMENT NOTES

Exhibits Office

Recent displays outside the Library have been arranged by the staff at: The American Association For The Advancement of Science Conference and Do It Yourself Show, Mechanics Building; Negro History Week Conference, John Hancock Building; Eire Society Meeting, New England Mutual Building; Massachusetts Society of Colonial Dames, 55 Beacon Street; The United States Veterans Bureau, Tremont and Beacon Streets; and The Home Savings Bank, Tremont and Beacon Streets.

Patent Room

On Tuesday evening March 23, Gene Montefiore will be giving a Recital in Recital Hall at the New England Conservatory of Music, Huntington Avenue. No tickets are required for admission. We expect to see a lot of the Library Staff there to hear the Patent Room's tenor.

BRANCH NOTES

Jamaica Plain

Midwinter meeting of the Friends of Jamaica Plain Branch Library was held on February 8. The guest of the evening was Arthur W. Heintzelman, distinguished artist and Keeper of Prints, Boston Public Library. His subject was The Albert H. Wiggin Collection--one of the Library's great treasures. Mr Heintzelman brought with him many beautiful prints--the work of such famous artists as Muirhead Bone, Honore Daumier, Jean-Louis Forain, and Gerald Brockhurst. It was a fascinating talk and the audience was most enthusiastic. Many members of the

group have expressed the hope that Mr Heintzelman may address the Friends again. A social hour concluded this very interesting meeting.

North End

On February 18, Linda Marie Pagliuca, assistant, was guest speaker during the annual Career Week at the Julie Billiart High School which is situated next door to the library. A graduate of the high school, Miss Pagliuca spoke on The Role of the Librarian in the Community in which she told how library work is not the dull occupation people believe it to be but rather an opportunity to help others considerably and at the same time to enrich one's own life and to broaden one's cultural background.

Phillips Brooks

The children's Reading Club sent Valentines to about sixty of their favorite authors. Since then the most lovely replies have been coming in, including some original illustrations from Carolyn Haywood's Eddie and the Fire Engine. The authors all express their surprise and appreciation at having received the Valentines, and they are especially thrilled that the cards are all hand made by the children. The children look forward eagerly to reading each new letter, and the Editorial Board of the club's bulletin, The Pathfainders' News, enjoys picking the ones to be printed in the monthly issues.

South Boston

Lillian Lagamasino, recently transferred to Orient Heights was entertained by the staff at a farewell party at the Red Coach Grille. She was presented with a gift of records.

*

On February 6, Anne McCarthy was the guest of the staff at a luncheon at Novak's to celebrate her recently announced engagement to Mr Charles Kinne. The staff surprised Anne with a gift of Revere Ware.

*

The staff is proud of extra assistant, Barbara Concannon, Senior at St Augustine's High School, South Boston. Barbara won first prize in the local Science Fair and will compete at the Diocesan Science Fair at Boston College on April 9 and 10, and at the GLOBE sponsored Science Fair at MIT in May. In addition to this distinction, Barbara also was awarded first prize in a short story competition of the Notre Dame Magazine. Her story will be published in the May issue.

*

The President's Award of the 1954 Boy Scout Week display competition went to Boy Scout Troop 2 of South Boston Boys' Club in recognition of the magnificent "Equipment Display" which the Troop, under the direction of Scout Master Robert Fahey, arranged in the front window area of South Boston. The display included a tent, sleeping bags, cooking tools, knives, hatchets, machetes, weapons, and photographs, with a wall-high American flag as the background.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

Dear Editor:

The announcing of the closing of the Central Library Building at 6 P.M. on Saturdays was a definite step forward. Since only a few departments remained open until 9 P.M., it was not possible to give completely integrated and efficient service after 6 P.M. and this lack gave rise to many complaints from patrons. The public relations and esteem of the Library should improve as a result of this decision to eliminate "half-way" service on Saturday evenings.

Perhaps we may hope for a complete

elimination of this "half-way" service by establishing a uniform closing time for the Central Library at 9 P.M. on Monday through Friday especially since the recent check on the number of patrons entering the few departments open from 9 P.M. to 10 P.M. indicates that the lightest patronage of the entire day occurs during this hour.

Efficiency and Economy

To the editor:

It does not seem logical to many of us that a chief of a department which does not deal directly with the public, should be working even a few hours at the Supervisor's desk in the Division of Reference and Research Services, especially when there are chiefs of public departments free for the assignment. The Chief of the General Reference Department knows the Division book-stock, the amount of call for various starred books for which special circulation privileges may be requested, and has had far more experience in the problems of reference work, and years of service with the public. He would be a far more logical and qualified supervisory candidate. This situation looks as though it were just another example of "pushing a favorite" by giving "experience" toward a possible future promotion to the vacancy, which should--if the workers in the Division are to have ANY morale left--more properly go to one who has worked toward this goal step by step and who is therefore more fit in every way to supervise the departments which deal with reference work and with the public.

Reference worker

Dear Editor:

I just wish to extend my congratulations on the recent appointment to the position of Chief Librarian of the Division of Home Reading and Community services. Having known the gentleman in question for a good many years, I am sure that he will do a thorough, conscientious, and brilliant job.

As one who has a high opinion of himself, I had no favorite candidate for the position and can consequently view from an Olympian height such criticism of the appointment as has come my way. It seems to fall into two categories, either (1) we should have gotten an appointee from outside, or, (2) we should have gotten an appointee who had experience in the division in question. (I have heard no one deny the excellent personal qualifications of the successful candidate.)

As to the first point, my personal conviction is that on the day this, a large metropolitan library, feels that it must go to, for instance, a library one-quarter its size for its qualified candidates, we might as well take down our shingle and devote ourselves solely to kindergarten work.

The second point is one well-taken. It obviously would be of benefit to the appointee to have had experience in the division. (Albeit high level appointments were made in the past without experience and these same critics were silent). However, for some time past the modus operandi of this library wittingly or unwittingly discouraged transfer on a promotional basis from one division to the other. If the gates had been opened there might have been innumerable qualified experienced candidates to choose from, myself included.

One can perhaps hope that this transfer on a high level augurs well for future exchanges of personnel between the divisions for the betterment of the library service.

Peregrine Pickle

To the Soap Box:

The appointment of a chief officer of the Reference and Research Division to be chief officer of the Home Reading and Community Services Division calls for pause and contemplation. The comments which follow bear no reflection on personalities. Most staff members are able to see above the restricted view of personalities. It is with policies we are concerned.

To one who can view this recent appointment objectively--with no personal involvement--the first thing that calls for comment is the query--was there no one in the Division of Home Reading and Community Services who was capable or qualified to fill this position?

What happened to the "policy" of no shuttling between the Reference and Research and Home Reading and Community Services Divisions? Once ripped, curtains

tend to disintegrate--and that was such a convenient curtain behind which to take refuge when someone became too ambitious and wanted to ignore its existence. Now it seems to be a free-for-all. Advancement used to be vertical; now it can be horizontal as well as vertical. Maybe that's a good idea--maybe it isn't. What happens to years of accumulated "know how"? Was it wise, in the recent appointment, to disregard the incumbent's many years of outstanding service as a recognized authority in the reference field and place him in a position which demands an equally specialized background in community service and in which he has had no experience? Cannot this same thing be repeated over and over again now that the "policy" of inter-division transfers has been instituted. It's an interesting speculation and may completely revolutionize the Library's appointment policies. For instance, is it now possible for members of the Home Reading and Community Services staff to apply for the supervisory position in the Division of Reference and Research Services made available by the new appointment of Chief Librarian.

Then there is the speculation as to why someone from the outside was not brought in, assuming, of course, that the caliber of the Home Reading and Community Services personnel was apparently too low in quality. It is gratifying, of course, to have the abilities of our own staff members recognized; on the other hand a breath of outside air might be refreshing and infuse in us some new ideas and give us a psychological lift. Even families deteriorate when they become ingrown.

To a novice, it's all very confusing and one can't help but wonder "Where do we go from here?"

Speculator

Dear Editor:

I heartily approve it and believe that the Administration should be congratulated for the recent appointment. I would also like, of course, to extend my deepest condolences to the Division of Reference and Research Services. I don't know whether to extend congratulations or condolences to the new appointee. It takes a brave man.

Anon.

Dear Editor:

In the recent appointment of Chief Librarian, Division of Home Reading and Community Services, of an individual from another division, we are aware that the Trustees do not feel bound at top level by the restrictions which are applied to appointments at lower levels. Such an appointment does point up, however, that without reference to points or examinations transfers in grade from one department or one division to another are possible at all sub-professional levels, at the 1st three professional levels, and then again officers of the Library may be promoted from one division to another. But promotions to 4th step, 5th step, or Chief/Branch Librarian levels, or transfers to 4th or 5th step positions, require strict adherence to points, examination requirements, experience, etc.

Why should there be these strict requirements for only these three levels and much easier rules for those below and above?

GOOD LISTENING AHEAD!

On Saturday, April 3, on the Interesting People interviews with Priscilla Fortescue, Station WEEI, the "interesting person" will be Clarence R. Graham, Librarian, Louisville Public Library, Louisville, Kentucky. The tape recording was made on February 18, 1954, when Mr Graham was a speaker at the mid-winter meeting of the Massachusetts Library Association.

GLOBE MAN'S DAILY STORY

Shortly after attaining the rank of emeritus, a Harvard professor encountered a former student in the yard. "Congratulations, sir, on becoming emeritus," the student said. "They should have done it long ago."

A. L. A. STILL NEEDS YOU IN 1954

Aprlication blanks and membership information are furnished happily by

Sarah M. Usher
Records, Files, Statistics

FEDERAL INCOME EXEMPTION BILL

Note: At the March 15 meeting of the Executive Board, it was voted to bring the following information and suggested course of action to the attention of the membership through the pages of The Question Mark

The Mason Bill, HR 5180, seeks to equalize tax treatment for retired people. It provides that $100 a month of retirement income shall be nontaxable. This $1,200 exemption on retirement income is in addition to the personal exemption received by all individuals, employed or retired. This $1,200 exemption applies to retired persons over age 65 and to persons under 65 who have actually retired under an established public or private retirement plan.

The Mason Bill now becomes part of the general tax revision legislation scheduled to go to the House floor in March.

Work on this legislation has only begun since opposition in the Senate will be greater. Also remember, the bill must still pass the House.

What action is now needed?

1. Write your Representative urging him to vote to keep intact the Mason Amendment to the general tax revision bill.

2. Start writing to your Senators now urging their support of the Mason proposal when it reaches the Senate. Tell them why the exemption is needed. Social security benefits are entirely exempt from federal income tax; beneficiaries under the Railroad Retirement Act have their retirement benefits entirely free from federal income taxes. Why are not all retired people handled similarly and given equal tax treatment? Why should retired librarians, and other municipal, state, and federal employees remain the victims of discriminatory legislation and rulings?

3. Write the President of your interest in the Mason proposal. This legislation now lacks Administration support and letters from all parts of the country would indicate widespread interest in the measure.

CONGRATULATIONS

Two former members of the Library staff have been honored this month by Pope Pius XII:

Named Papal Chamberlains as a reward for merit, with the title Very Reverand Monsignor, were Charles R. Flanagan, headmaster of St Sebastian's Country Day School, Newton, and Francis F. McElroy, executive director, Archdioscesan Union of Holy Name Societies.

C E N T E N N I A L

R E V U E

Calling all who play musical instruments

WE NEED AN ORCHESTRA

Please contact immediately:

Martin F. Waters
History

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

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Louis Polishook	Science and Technology---Patent Room
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THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

APRIL 1954

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume IX, Number 4 April 1954

Publications Committee: Gerald L. Ball, John J. McCafferty, Sheila W. Pierce, Sarah M. Usher, Charles J. Gillis, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

The period of commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Boston Public Library will end on Sunday, May 2. In two weeks' time a re-dedication ceremony will take place in the Library, a solemn occasion to end the hustle and bustle, the excitement and toil of the past year.

This is a fitting time to view the accomplishments of the Centennial Program. The five objectives of the Centennial Commission as announced in the advance statement were to "fittingly observe the 100th anniversary", "to create better understanding of the functions of the library", "to encourage greater use of the library", "to bring about a larger measure of private and public support", and "to develop increased cooperation among public libraries and other cultural and educational institutions." To our certain knowledge, four of these objectives have been attained--the program for "private and public support" (i. e. gifts and endowments) is now in full swing and cannot be evaluated yet.

The Trustees of the Library, the Director, and the public-spirited members of the Centennial Commission have all given unstintingly of their time and effort to the success of the program. The members of the Library staff, by their participation and gifts, have aided the Commission to reach its objectives.

The professional library associations--the Massachusetts Library Association, the Special Libraries Association, the Massachusetts Library Trustees Association, the Music Library Association--all have cooperated in the program.

Business and industrial organizations, represented by the Advertising Club of Boston, the motion picture industry, and others, have contributed greatly to the better understanding of the importance of the Library in the community.

Cultural and educational organizations such as the Women's City Club, the Eire Society, the Massachusetts Federation of Womens' Clubs, and the Massachusetts Society of Colonial Dames, have aided in the improvement of public attitudes toward the Library.

The widespread publicity gained through this program is a valuable asset. The realization has been brought home to thousands of people that here is a great institution geared to modern public service--service to the private citizen, to the school, to industry, and to the professions.

We feel sure that the investment of time and energy contributed by the Commission will continue to pay dividends for a great many years.

Charles J. Gillis

NEW SOAP BOX POLICY

At a recent meeting, the Publications Committee, in deliberating on the policies of The Question Mark, considered those affecting the "Soap Box" columns. We do not relish taking action which might be interpreted as an attempt to stifle criticism. However, we feel that the present policy, which allows unlimited space for the expression of opinions, could, with reason and justice, be subject to nominal limitation. Therefore, we asked the Executive Board to consider our recommendation. The limitation now appearing in the box at the head of the "Soap Box" was approved on March 15 by the Executive Board. The limitation will take affect in our May issue.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Did you remember to join A.L.A.?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 20-23. CLA, 30th annual conference, Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia.

April 24. Civil Defense test in Boston 9:05-9:15 a.m.

April 26. SLA, Boston Chapter, monthly meeting, Brandeis University Waltham, 7:45 p.m. (Dinner at the Castle at 6:45 p.m.)

April 28. Civil Defense district meetings, 2:30-3:30 p.m., for volunteers in Social Services Division, Information and Counseling Section.

May 2. BPL Centennial--Re-dedication exercises in Bates Hall.

PERSONAL NOTES

Resignations

Blair M. Benner, Audio-Visual, to devote his time to a career as a concert singer.

Herbert F. Clement, part-time Assistant, Office of the Div. of HR and CS has left the service to join the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Mrs Anne L. Dolan, Office of the Deputy Supervisor, in Charge of Work with Adults, to remain at home

Mrs Barbara C. Elam, South End, to remain at home

Mrs Mary A. LaFollette, South End, to remain at home

Retirements

John L. McNally, Buildings, after 28 years of service.

John A. Williams, after 21 years of custodial service at East Boston.

Transfers

Evelyn B. Herboldsheimer, from Dorchester to Brighton.

Ellen E. Richwagen, from Roslindale to North End

Mrs Norma S. Sherman, from Brighton to Egleston Square.

Hope B. Brown, from Jamaica Plain to South Boston.

Eleanor O'Leary, from Memorial to South Boston.

Veronica T. Yotts, from Mount Pleasant to the Office of the Deputy Supervisor, in Charge of Work with Adults.

BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY to

A. Gertrude Barry, Personnel Office

Mary E. Ames, Branch Librarian, Emeritus, who is recovering from a broken hip at Storrow House, Baker Bridge Road, Lincoln.

Edward Maynard, Building's, recovering from an operation at VA Hospital, West Roxbury.

BON VOYAGE to

Mr and Mrs Ronald Keswick and young Ronnie who left on April 12 for a trip to Mexico. From headquarters in Mexico City, they will include Guadalupe, Xochimilco, Acapulco, Taxco, and Toluca in their visit--to say nothing of witnessing a bull fight!

CONGRATULATIONS to

Two of the B.P.L. part-time staff, who have recently given song recitals in Recital Hall, New England Conservatory: On March 23, Gene Montefiore, Patent Room; on March 26, Angela Centola, Bookmobile II.

Fanny Goldstein, West End, who has been named, for this area, Chairman of the Libraries Committee for the celebration of the Tercentenary of the settlement of Jews in America.

BABIES

Mr and Mrs William M. Svirsky happily announce the arrival of their son, William Martin, on March 12. Mrs Svirsky, the former Elizabeth McLoughlin, is on leave of absence from Parker Hill.

Mr and Mrs Ernest Naudzuinas have announced the arrival of Ernest, Jr., on March 17. Mrs Naudzuinas is the former Florence Karcauskas of the Book Stack Service.

Mr and Mrs James P. J. Gannon, Binding, announced the arrival of a daughter, Mary Virginia, on March 19.

Mr and Mrs Stephen L. Baxter, Binding, have announced the arrival of a daughter, Jean Marie, on March 26.

Friends of Joseph G. Sakey, formerly of Cataloging and Classification, Div. of R. and R.S., will be glad to hear about the arrival of Joanne Patricia (7 lbs., 6 oz.) on March 27.

Dr and Mrs Walter C. Cotter have announced the birth of a daughter, Jean, on April 1. Mrs Cotter is on leave of absence from Hospital Library Service.

VISITORS

Germán García, Director-Bibliothecario de la Asociacion, Bernardion Rivadavia, Argentina.

Albert Krebs, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.

THE B.P.L. ON TV

On Wednesday afternoon, March 24, Francis X. Moloney was the guest of Donald Born on WBZ-TV's New England Almanac program. Mr Moloney, pinch-hitting for Mr Lord who was ill, discussed the Library's Centennial Celebration. The historical aspect of the Centennial was stressed since the program commemorated the opening of the Mason Street Reading Room on March 20, 1854.

THE B.P.L. IN THE NEWS

The Boston AMERICAN for March 18 carried a full-page picture story by E. A. Howard on the Kirstein Business Branch entitled Information for the Looking."

George Ryan, a feature writer for the PILOT had a half-page story with photographs published in the March 27 issue. Entitled Boston Public Library Century of Service Means Multiple Aid to Catholic Schools, the article described the numerous services of the Library to Catholic schools, groups, and institutions in Boston.

A past and present picture story of the Mason Street building and the present Central building appeared in the MONITOR for March 27, by Lyman Fisher.

The April issue of the BOSTON YWCA NEWS discusses the Library's Centennial and services in the Resident Cat column.

MR HEINTZELMAN HONORED

A committee composed of the Curator of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the Director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the Chief of the Division of Prints of the Library of Congress have named Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints, to membership on the Pennell Fund Committee. The committee is composed of two artists and the Chief of the Division of Prints of the Library of Congress, and is charged with the selection of prints purchased for the J. & E. R. Pennell Collection for the National Collection in the Library of Congress.

Mr Heintzelman at present is organizing an exchange exhibition between Italy and the United States which will be inaugurated in Rome and Boston in October.

A retrospective exhibition of Mr Heintzelman's prints is being shown in the National Museum of Jerusalem, Israel, during the Spring months.

Emilia Lange

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The Retirement Income Exemption Amendment to the General Tax Revision Bill, H.R. 8300, known as the Mason Bill, was changed by the House Ways and Means Committee in the following respects:

1. Only persons 65 years and older can secure the exemption.
2. A retired person must have earned at least $600 per year for ten consecutive years.
3. No individual can receive benefit greater than the bottom tax rate which is 20%, multiplied by the exclusion. This means that no matter how large the retirement income, no person can derive a maximum benefit of more than $1200 x 20% or $240.

The bill, with these provisions, passed the House as Sec. 38 of H.R. 8300. The bill now goes to the Senate Finance Committee for consideration.

Those interested in having the 65 year age limit deleted, and in having the amount of retirement income exempted from taxation restored to $1500 may write to Senator Eugene D. Millikan, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator John F. Kennedy and Senator Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts, at the Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., urging their support of this legislation

to benefit retired individuals and explaining what it would mean to retired librarians.

The medium for the Centennial Pageant has recently been changed. The original play, written by Christine Hayes, Chief of Book Selection (RRS), Emeritus, Marjorie Brown, Cataloging and Classification (RRS), and Bessie Doherty, Branch Issue, presented many technical problems in producing so that it was felt that a new medium might obviate many of these difficulties.

It was decided to make the play into a musical revue called "Free to All", based on the original play. Martin Waters, History, Eamon McDonough, General Reference, and Sheila Pierce, Central Charging, have done a tremendous amount of work adapting the play into a musical revue and in writing original music (Mr Waters) and lyrics (Miss Pierce and Mr McDonough).

The members of the Executive Board were given a little preview of what has been done thus far with the revue and were most favorably impressed. It was felt that a work with so much promise of fine entertainment should be given sufficient time to be properly produced so that it is now planned to present it in the Fall in a hall or theatre outside the Library with a larger seating capacity and more adequate staging facilities.

Since the Centennial fund-raising activities will continue after the official ending of the celebration, the revue will still contribute much to the Centennial in addition to providing fun and entertainment for all concerned.

B. Joseph O'Neil

SOMEWHERE IN THE LIBRARY . . .

10. Somewhere in the Library there is a memorial to a man who, though he was not an employee of the Library, nevertheless greatly assisted the Library over a number of years in the selection of books in the fields of modern literature. Frank H. Chase has written of him: "He left a permanent impress on the library by helping it to keep up to standard in the entire field of Belles-lettres." An author, scholar, and educator, he lived from 1845 to 1928. In 1950 Virginia Harlow wrote a biography of this man, enumerating all his many services to this Library. Who was this man? Where is the memorial to him located? The memorial was made in Birmingham, England, and is a work of art in itself.

11. Somewhere in the Library there is a memorial to a man of whom it can be said that he placed an embodiment of the Renaissance spirit in Copley Square. We read on his memorial tablet the following words: FAITHFUL SERVANT OF THE ARTS/ INCOMPARABLE FRIEND TO YOUTH/ HONOURED MASTER OF HIS PROFESSION/IN THIS BUILDING ENDURINGLY IS REVEALED/THE SPLENDID AMPLITUDE OF HIS GENIUS/AN INSPIRATION TO ALL MEN. The phrase "incomparable friend to youth" may be interpreted in the light of his establishing traveling scholarships at Columbia and Harvard, and his efforts to establish an American Academy at Rome, where talented youth might have, under competent direction, association with the masterpieces of all ages. Who was this man? Where is the memorial to him located?

12. The signs of the zodiac are inlaid in the floor of the Entrance Hall of the Library. In what other place within the Library can you see an artistic representation of the signs of the zodiac?

13. The Parthenon, ancient temple of the goddess Athena, can be seen in one of the Library's famous works of art. This artistic representation of the famous temple is described in one of the Library's guide books in the following words. "In the background is the gleaming white Parthenon, lifted high upon the Acropolis. The building stands upon the height solitary and alone, so that it commands the painting in single unperplexed beauty." To what painting in the Library does this description apply?

Answers to March questions

5. The Declaration of Independence, Constitution of the United States of America, Articles of Confederation, Petition to the King, 1774. They are located in the Treasure Room.

6-8. All located in the Treasure Room.

9. 230 Dartmouth Street.

Paul V. Moynihan

WEDDINGS

On March 27, Susan E. Shelvin, Audio-Visual, became the bride of Vincent Paul Trunfio. The ceremony took place in Nantucket where Mr Trunfio is supervisor of music in the public schools. The bride wore a beige suit, with blush pink hat and dark brown accessories, and carried stephanotis on a Prayer Book. Her only attendant was her sister.

*

Helen Beeman, Personnel Office, became the bride of Harry Karpeles, on Sunday, April 11. The ceremony was performed at Southern House in Brookline. Mr Karpeles, formerly of New York, is now Assistant Director of Hecht House. After their honeymoon trip, Mr and Mrs Karpeles will make their home in Brookline.

AMERICAN LEGION GIFT

On April 1 the Brighton-Allston American Legion Post No. 17 presented the first three of a series of books to the Boston Public Library. These books were given in memory of boys from the Brighton-Allston district who lost their lives in the Korean conflict. The presentation is a part of the American Legion's program against Communism which recommends that the various posts give books to their public libraries to aid in this fight.

Seeds of Treason by Victor Lasky and Ralph De Toledano was presented to Brighton in memory of Corporal James O. Dance, Jr.; Conquest by Terror by Leland Stowe to Faneuil in memory of Private First Class William B. Smith, Jr.; and Red Masquerade by Angela Calomiris to Allston in memory of Private Phillip C. Hughes.

Special bookplates, prepared by the American Legion, are affixed to each book, describing the nature of the gift. The Post plans eventually to donate a book in memory of each hero from the Brighton-Allston district.

IN MEMORIAM

William P. Hickey

William P. Hickey, retired member of the Buildings Department, passed away on March 31. "Hickey", as he was known to most of the staff, had been ill for the past few years. Bill Hickey did special work at the Library for many of the Boston newspapers, but chiefly for the Boston GLOBE. The newspapers when they urgently needed material called Hickey, and Bill using the best brains of the Library soon delivered the desired material. He was always very helpful in obtaining publicity in the newspapers for all affairs run by the staff. He was also very helpful to individual members of the staff in getting into the newspapers pictures and notices about affairs in which they were interested. Bill would also obtain copies of pictures which had appeared in the newspapers for those who were interested in having them.

Mr Hickey's wife died a few years ago. Bill, who was a devoted husband, was never the same after her death. He was also a devoted father. He was buried from the home of his daughter, with whom he lived since his retirement, with a solemn requiem Mass at St Columbkill's Church in Brighton, on Saturday April 3rd.

James S. Kennedy

RETIREMENTS

John Loring McNally

Have you heard that John has left us? Not John Harvard, no, nor John Barleycorn--but our own John Loring McNally. "Lead kindly light" was his motto....he always had light on any subject, be it great or small. He was a friend of everybody. Not only was he effervescent, but fluorescent as well in later years.

May his pleasing and pleasant personality be an example for all of us to follow. We all wish him well not only here in Boston but well in Wellfleet.

William F. Quinn

John A. Williams

John A. Williams, custodian at East Boston for the past ten years, was retired from the library service on March 16. He is remembered by all who worked with him at East Boston and in the North End for his cheerful nature and his willingness to help the staff at all times. He

will be sorely missed when new projects are planned for there is nothing Mr Williams cannot do, from making a stage for puppet shows and creating miniature castles to running a movie projector and tape recorder. However, we hope that he will now enjoy his leisure and perhaps find time to work on his own special projects.

Duilia Capobianco

BPLPSA WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Robert J. Anglin, Book Stack Service
Ruth F. Arjoumanian, Central Charging Records
Vera L. Cheves, Branch Issue
Robert S. Collyer, Book Stack Service
Anne B. Cushing, Central Charging Records
Marie Devlin, Book Selection, Div. of H. R. and C. S.
Dorothy Dodworth, North End
James G. Griffin, Book Stack Service
Millicent A. Hamer, Dorchester
Monica Harrington, Cataloging and Classification, Div. of R. and R. S.
Garth B. Henzler, Bookmobile I
Evelyn B. Herboldsheimer, Dorchester
Mary J. Joyce, Cataloging and Classification, Div. of H. R. and C. S.
Myron Kaplan, Book Purchasing
Marie A. Larkin, Book Preparation
Carolyn A. Linehan, Connolly
Irene M. McCarthy, Adams Street
Maureen McCarthy, Book Stack Service
Faith T. Minton, Book Stack Service
Timothy J. O'Donovan, Book Stack Service
Angela A. Sacco, Allston
Arlene Saffren, South Boston
Janet B. Schlein, Brighton
David J. Shedd, Book Stack Service
David T. Sheehan, Book Stack Service
Norma C. Sherman, Brighton
Lawrence J. Sindoni, Book Stack Service
Virginia J. Spencer, Cataloging and Classification, Div. of H. R. and C. S.
Gilda Tecce, Hyde Park

BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM

If you want to be assured that you or your family have blood when they need it in an emergency, ask Mrs Wollent in the Staff Hospital for the details of the City of Boston Employees Blood Donor Program.

THE BPL (Conclusion)

91
Shade the Fifth the stage ascends,
Greatest of our early friends;
Presence, dignity, and weight,
A Shakespeare counselor of state;
Kindly, yet commanding eye,
Gracious, but remained up high;
Framed along the Newman plan-
Christian scholar, gentleman.

92
Labor, wealth, and talents gave,
Fledgling BPL to save;
Spent himself without stint,
Left on us eternal print;
Built us so we stay at prime,
Not an age but all of time;
Bravely bearing now and then,
Rougher times and smaller men.

93
Boston son by birth and choice,
Boston's creed a heeded voice;
Educated well at home,
Atmosphere like early home;
Yankee virtues planted deep,
As you sow so you reap;
Courage, honor, learning, zeal,
Selfless work for public weal.

94
Prodigy at Dartmouth College,
Stunned the experts with his knowledge;
Trinity's divines in cassocks
Saturated him in classics;
A Yankee Sullivan taught him law-
As lawyer he was somewhat raw;
Paid his rent and office boy,
But resigned the Law with joy.

95
Knew his strength, his hopes, his mind,
Aimed to serve his human kind;
Knew his country's chiefest need
Was for more of scholar breed;
Hungered for the rarer knowledge,
Not yet found in U.S. college;
Moneyed father gave the nod,
Went reluctantly abroad.

96
Letters written by the great,
Opened to him every gate;
Handsome, dashing, bright, vivacious,
Witty, learned, kind and gracious;
Social gifts diverse and rare;
Charm he had beyond compare;
Melted Europe's wonted chill,
True ambassador of good will.

97
First to England, motherland,
A first we all can understand;
Met with Byron, Davy, Gifford,
Campbell, Roscoe, Parr, and Clifford;
London social whirl palls,
Dedicated duty calls;
Soon to Göttingen he flies,
Cynosure of scholars' eyes.

98
Set himself a routine grim,
Drank all learning to the brim;
Mastered history, German, Greek,
Found all he came to seek;
Laid a foundation strong,
Useful to him all life long;
Never to his final day,
Quite forgot his German stay.

99
Twenty months of concentration
Made him hungry for vacation;
Studied country's flora, fauna,
Dresden lured him with Madonna;
Paid respects to Weimar's sage,
Deep in honors as in age;
Germans all a placid feast,
Not a trace of Nazi beast.

100
Thence to Paris, then as now,
Chief of fashion know-how;
Learned men from every nation
Add a spice to conversation;
Statesmen, scholars of renown,
Welcomed him as their own;
Citadels, like walls of Troy,
Crumble for the Boston boy.

101
Places of the highest tone,
Private boudoir and salon;
Inner sanctums of the great-
Every place one open gate;
Met with Schlegel, Talleyrand,
Humboldt, and Chateaubriand;
Montmorency de Laval,
Justly famed Madame de Stael.

102
Paid belated U.S. debt,
Visiting General Lafayette;
Switzerland with mountains vast,
Nature's vistas unsurpassed;
Italy with sunny skies,
Her extollers don't tell lies;
Venice, Florence, and Milan
Tribute to the art of man.

103
Then to Rome, eternal city,
Proof of wrath divine, and pity;
Ancient ruins dot the view,
Jostling modern and the new;
Caesar's fierceness tamed by time,
Church proclaims a faith sublime;
Pagan gods and goddets fled,
Overcome by One who bled.

104
Met with statesmen, politicians,
Churchmen, commoners, and patricians;
Aged Pope with penetration,
Praises Yankee toleration;
Noted foreigners by the score,
Welcome him at their door;
Men of power, fame, and arts,
A wilderness of Bonapartes.

105
Then to Spain, by nature blest,
But unnatural and depressed;
Despot rules the people's fate,
Guilt, corruption taints the state;
Upper class by crime beguiled,
Common people undefiled;
Commerce, learning in decay,
People picturesque and gay.

106
Roads, inns in ugly state,
Traveled at a snail's gait;
Constitution young and strong,
Not dispirited for long;
Fellow passengers enjoy
Yarns spun by Yankee boy;
Used his natural gift of gab
Read Don Quixote in the cab.

107
Libraries attention claim,
Their condition crime and shame;
Visitor incensed and riled,
Valued books in jumble wild;
Lumber room in worst disgrace,
Turns up a rare La Place;
Found nature's oddest spooks-
Librarians ignorant of books.

108
Fell on books with might and main,
Wrested golden gains from Spain;
Language, culture, people, all
Rest of life his soul enthrall;
Spain his purpose sharp defined,
More than rest of Europe combined;
Showed expert hand and sure,
Writing of its literature.

109
Back to Paris and its pleasures,
  Homesick, bursting with his treasures;
French are mannered and official,
  Brilliant, graceful, superficial;
England beckons, smiling land,
  People friendly, nature bland;
Feted darling of the great,
  Dukes and duchesses a spate.

110
Ache for home insistent grows,
  Sick of Europe and its shows;
Mother died while he was gone,
  Bitter seemed the laurels won;
Shook the foreign dust off feet,
  Flew in haste to native seat;
Landed near New Bedford farms,
  Rode all night to father's arms.

111
Entered Harvard's cloistered walls,
  Extra auditors throng the halls;
Introduced reforms, correctives,
  Controversial new electives;
Back from Europe, in retreat,
  Magnum opus to complete;
Mark on Spanish letters set,
  Scarcely superseded yet.

112
Sumptuous home near Park Street mall,
  World's renowned here call;
Famed as scholar, writer, friend,
  Virtues all in happy blend;
Shed a luster far and wide,
  Boston basks in him with pride;
Shunned publicity and strife,
  Private, happy, family life.

113
Then, in eighteen fifty two,
  Bug bibliothecal bit him too;
Europe's libraries had shown
  Woeful lacks in native town;
Harvard's books, he pained declared,
  Seemed a closetful compared;
Boston, learned, rich, and free,
  Had no public library.

114
Leading citizens discuss
  Fear of Boston missing bus,
If New York's new library,
  Be the only one that's free;
Mayor Seaver tries to prod
  Council into giving nod;
Council takes the prodding well,
  Chooses board for BPL.

115
Served with Everett, Shurtleff, Reed,
  Turning projects into deed;
Outline of needs began,
  Others bowed to his plan;
Dreamed and studied, planned and wrought,
  Masterpiece of forceful thought;
Wrote report, in skill and data,
  Boston Library's Magna Charta.

116
No society long stays free,
  Minus public library;
Means of general information
  Must be free to population;
Buy the books the public wants,
  Offer shelter from its haunts;
Library is foe to fools,
  "Crowning glory of our schools."

117
Overseas report was read,
  Bates nostalgic tears had shed;
Princely gift he forthwith made,
  Put all others in the shade;
Books in thousands were bought,
  City fathers gave the plot;
Sooner than it takes to tell,
  Boston had a BPL.

118
Should my verse much longer prove,
  The editors will my head remove;
To prevent which severation,
  I'll stop this dissertation;
Telescope my hero's size,
  All his virtues minimize;
But repeat advice I must,
  Spoken by his Bates Hall bust:

119
Disregard moronic strictures,
  Treat the books like sacred scriptures;
People have a right divine,
  Serve them with a grace benign;
Think your work, in spite of mob,
  More a priesthood than a job;
Books will answer every need,
  Read and read and read and read.

120
Built us mightily on rock,
  Adamant to every shock;
Ancient systems' dissolution,
  Even palace revolution;
Genuflected honor's due
  Pioneer fine and true;
French police had called him Bignor,
  We salute the great GEORGE TICKNOR.

Harry Andrews

CENTENNIAL NOTES

Conference of Trustees of Massachusetts Libraries

On Saturday, March 27, the Boston Public Library was host to the library trustees of Massachusetts as part of its centennial celebration.

An introductory session was held in the Lecture Hall at 10:30 AM. Milton E. Lord, Director, extended greetings to the trustees and gave a short description of the central library building. The architecture, unique in America at its inception, proved to be the prototype which architects followed for almost half a century. The trustees were also told of the expanded functions of the present Library and the need for an addition to the main building. This addition will be designed to further these new or greater services.

The assembly was then invited to divide into groups for conducted tours of the building. A number of staff members were assigned to take these groups to the various public and behind-the-scenes activities. Department chiefs were on hand to describe the work of their departments and to answer questions. Included in the tour were a visit to the Director's Office to view the model of the proposed addition, and informal discussions of special aspects of library service--Hospital Library Service, Group Services, and the Friends of the Library activities.

The afternoon session included a symposium at the Sheraton-Plaza Hotel on "The Future of Massachusetts Public Libraries." After the symposium about one hundred trustees took advantage of the opportunity to visit two of our new circulation units--the Adams Street and Egleston Square Branch Libraries. Members of the staff were on duty to greet the visitors and to answer their many questions.

The evening session, the dinner in honor of the Centennial Anniversary of the Boston Public Library, took place in the main ballroom of the Sheraton-Plaza Hotel. Stacy B. Southworth, Chairman of the Massachusetts Free Public Library Commission and toastmaster, introduced the speakers. Mrs George Rodney Wallace, President of the Massachusetts Library Trustees Association, extended greetings from the Association. Patrick F. McDonald, President of the Trustees of the Boston Public Library, accepted the greetings and welcomed the guests on behalf of the Boston Public Library Trustees. Mr McDonald stressed the importance of the Boston Library to the citizens of Boston and to the people of the State in its function as a great reference library. Since its charter, received from the Commonwealth, states that it must be forever "free to all", Mr McDonald expressed his belief that the State Aid bill is of great importance and called upon the assembled trustees to band together in support of the bill.

Mr Lord gave some of the highlights of the Library's history and the part played by non-residents of Boston in its development. Special mention was made of the gifts and endowments of Joshua Bates, a businessman of London.

Mayor Hynes spoke on "Boston and the Boston Public Library." He extolled the great collections of books and the varied services made available to the citizens of Boston and to the residents of the state. Due to the present state of the city revenues, the Mayor said that he welcomed the opportunity to go on record in favor of State Aid to Libraries. Mayor Hynes asked for concerted action from the Trustees of the state in support of the bill.

M.L.A. BULLETIN in Tribute to B.P.L.

The M.L.A. BULLETIN has saluted the B.P.L. in its centennial year in a most complimentary fashion--by devoting to it the major part of the January 1954 issue. Editor-in-Chief, John T. Parkhill, who worked closely with Helen Pappas, of the Library's Information Office, is to be congratulated upon the excellence of the cooperation between papers of which this issue gives evidence. Boston newspapers whose editors or critics contributed to this enlightening picture of the Library's activities include the HERALD, Sunday POST, GLOBE, PILOT, and the Associated Press.

The titles of the articles indicate the range of subject matter presented: Public Library Leading Way in Back Bay Expansion Plans, They Read While They Labor, Records to Take Home Free!, Music Department, The BPL Print Department

Curb Service: BPL Bookmobile, Work with Teenagers, Story Hour Rivals Playground, Profits in Free Books (Kirstein Business Branch), and City Hospital Library Service

This recognition by the bulletin of the State's library association is one of the most heart-warming tributes which has been paid to the Boston Public Library during its Centennial Celebration.

Old Boston Movies a Centennial Gift

The Boston Public Library Centennial Commission saluted the motion picture industry at a dinner held at the Sheraton-Plaza on April 6. Outstanding executives from the movies shared the program with city, state, and library officials. Representing actors and actresses was Nina Foch.

Movie views of Boston taken half a century ago were shown and then presented to the Library by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Saturday Evening Girls Honor B.P.L.

SATURDAY EVENING GIRLS, a group of former children who were organized into story hour groups at the turn of the century, in connection with the library club house work of the North End Branch Library, held a reunion at West End on Saturday afternoon, April 10. This particular meeting honored the Boston Public Library in its Centennial Year. Mrs David A. Doren, president, introduced Patrick F. McDonald, President of the Trustees of the Library, who was guest speaker.

Mr McDonald spoke on the Library--the symbolism of its Centennial Celebration, its historic background, its present service, and its future potentialities. He also implied that in the building of a man's philosophy of life the library can play an important role. Not only is the library a place in which to read, but it provides also a great educational opportunity, an opportunity for self-education and for the training of the intellect for an understanding of freedom and of civic responsibility. Coupled with a trained intellect is a disciplined will, which, according to philosophers, prepares a man for the highest plane of living. The modern library has cast off chains and other restrictions which were imposed upon the reader in the past. Today, libraries are planned and built just as big business would build, for the comfort of the readers and for the better use of books. In other words, it is not the Public Library, but the people's library of the City of Boston. This, the Centennial Celebration is intended to bring home to the populace and library friends.

Fanny Goldstein, S.E.G. Archivist, presented to the Library Centennial Fund, through Mr McDonald, a check for $110 from the group. A picture of the presentation appeared in the Boston Sunday HERALD on April 10.

Edith Guerrier, founder of the group, and Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Emeritus, was guest of honor. She presented to each girl a silver pin, which was a reproduction of a pin which had been designed especially for the group by Edith Brown, Director of the Paul Revere Pottery, when the Library Club House rooms were opened in the North End Branch Library, and which was intended as a club emblem. The acquisition of the original pins involved great economic planning because they cost $1.25 each. When the last partial payment was made on it, the pin was worn by the possessor with much pride for many years. The new pins bridge forty years of happy memories. With each was the following printed message from Miss Guerrier:

The S.E.G. Pin

"About fifty years ago our Story Hour started. Since that Spring day long ago we have acquired many new members, and many of our loved friends are no longer with us. Those of us who are still here have happy memories of Club House, Camp and Library, but the outstanding memory is of our precious friendships and what these friendships have meant to us. Nothing in this world can take the place of true friendship. The happy smile, the kind word, the reassuring hand-clasp of a friend offer cheer and courage which nothing else can give. One of the saddest things I ever said was when someone asked me to tell her what was the greatest need of one who had called upon her for help. I replied, "A friend--she appears not to have a single friend." The thing that has meant most to me in our S.E.G. is our friendship, and I want to leave with you this permanent record of that friendship. When you look

at the pin I hope it will remind you that if there were more true frinedliness in the world, sadness and despair would disappear, and war would become impossible.

Signed: Edith Guerrier--April 1954.

It is of interest to record at this time, that forty years ago, Miss Goldstein, as a very young girl, and president of the S.E.G., accepted the keys from Horace G. Wadlin, then librarian of the Boston Public Library, at the opening of the LIBRARY CLUB HOUSE rooms in the new building acquired for the North End Branch Library in 1913.

In her remarks, Miss Goldstein called attention to the fact that there was a parallel between the meeting of forty years ago and this one of today, by citing a portion of the remarks made then:

"The ideals of American womanhood which you good friends have helped to place before us, we the S.E.G., will aim to exemplify by our living, and to pass the ideal on to others. We shall endeavor to be better friends, better daughters, better wives, better mothers; and always pure and simple women, who, years hence, will look with pride upon this Association of American Daughters of North End Immigrants".

The above precepts and ideals, the S.E.G. have lived by, and exemplified these many years, as wives, mothers, grandmothers, and servants of the public.

CARE

Contributions to CARE have been lagging considerably this year. So far the only order the Committee has been able to place includes 3 anti-tuberculosis kits at $7.50 each, and 1 book package of medical books for Korea, costing $10.

T. B. has been so wide-spread following the war that the local CARE office has recommended the purchase of special kits to help alleviate the disease.

To those who have remembered CARE our sincere thanks, but may we not hear from more of you? See your Staff Representative and help CARE now!

Walter J. Bluhm, Chairman
CARE Committee

RICHARD G. APPEL RETIRES

The staff of the library was surprised indeed to learn of the imminent retirement of Richard G. Appel, Chief of Music, to be effective April 30, 1954. Mr Appel will be sixty-five on the 25th of April, having been born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1889. He studied at Columbia, Harvard, and Heidelberg universities and in addition to his leadership of the Music Department, has had a successful career as composer, organist, and hymnologist. Mr Appel joined the staff in 1922 and has been in charge of Music since 1924, a record of which to be justly proud.

In his quiet and modest way, Mr Appel has patiently watched over and nurtured the continued growth of the fine collections under his care. We shall be hard put to replace the dignity and integrity of this gentleman of the old school. Mr Appel, when necessary, is a man of determination which some attribute to his Pennsylvania Dutch heritage, but when upholding his views staunchly he is always a man of courtesy and has never questioned a person's reputation.

On April 14 Mr Appel was given a small reception in the Office of the Chief of the Division of Reference and Research Services. After this a coffee hour was held in his honour in the Women's Lounge where many members of the staff came to wish him well. As a farewell reminder of his many friends, he was presented with a barometer and a pair of theater glasses. With one he can tell when to look with the other so that he will not lose sight of us.

George M. Pahud

INVITATION TO JOIN N.E. UNIT, C.L.A.

Members of the B.P.L. staff interested in joining the N.E. Unit of the Catholic Library Association may do so upon application to Sally Anne Quinn, Chairman of the Membership Committee, who will be present at the meeting of May 8, or to Anna L. Manning, Secretary-Treasurer, Teachers. Membership dues are $1.00 a year, and meetings are held four times a year.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

Barrett, Edward W. Truth is our weapon.
New York, Funk & Wagnalls Co., 1953
Brown, Ivor J. C. Summer in Scotland.
London, Collins, 1952
Carrighar, Sally. Icebound summer.
New York, Knopf, 1953.
Carter John F. Republicans on the Potomac
New York, McBride Co., 1953
Clark, Eugenie. Lady with a spear.
New York, Harper, 1953
Cummings, Patricia. New York on a modest income.
New York, Simon and Schuster, 1952
Fawcett, Percy H. Lost trails, lost cities.
New York, Funk & Wagnalls, 1953
Highet, Gilbert. People, places, and books.
New York, Oxford University Press, 1953
Jackson, Shirley. Life among the savages.
New York, Farrar, Straus and Young, 1953
Kim, Agnes. I married a Korean.
New York, J. Day, 1953
Palazzeschi, Aldo. The sisters Materassi.
Garden City, New York, Doubleday, 1953
Posselt, Teresia Renata de Spiritu Sancto, Sister. Edith Stein.
New York, Sheed and Ward, 1952
Schildt, Göran. In the wake of Ulysses.
New York, Dodd, Mead, 1953
Tomlinson, Henry M. A mingled yarn.
Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, 1953
Trevino, Elizabeth B. My heart lies south.
New York, Crowell, 1953
Woodward, Helen B. The bold woman.
New York, Farrar, Straus, and Young, 1953

Non-Fiction--Library Science

Boston Public Library Centennial Commission
Building a great future upon a glorious past.
Boston, Boston Public Library Centennial Commission, 1953
Butler, Pierce, ed. Librarians, scholars, and booksellers at mid-century.
Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1953
Fleming, Edward M. R. R. Bowker.
Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1952
Fry, Bernard M. Library organization and management of technical reports literature.
Washington, Catholic University of America Press, 1953
Kirkegaard, Preben. The public libraries in Denmark.
Copenhagen, Danske selskab, 1950
McCord, David T. W. As built with second thoughts, reforming what was old!
Boston, The Centennial Commission of the City of Boston, 1953
Muir, Percival H., ed. Talks on book-collecting.
London, Cassell, 1952
Sheehan, Donald H. This was publishing.
Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 1952

Fiction

Gann, Ernest K. The high and the mighty.
New York, Sloane, 1953
Godden, Rumer. Kingfishers catch fire.
New York, Viking Press, 1953
Kane, Harnett T. The lady of Arlington.
Garden City, New York, Doubleday, 1953
Lehmann, Rosamond. The echoing grove.
New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1953
Ostlere, Gordon. Doctor at sea.
London, M. Joseph, 1953
Salinger, Jerome D. Nine stories.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1953
Thirkell, Angela M. Coronation summer.
New York, Knopf, 1953
Van Doren, Mark. Nobody say a word.
New York, Holt, 1953
Yaffe, James. The good-for-nothing.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1953

BRANCH NOTES

Connolly

The midwinter meeting of the Friends of the Connolly Branch Library was held on March 16, 1954. Two noteworthy films, Marian Anderson and Jascha Heifetz, were offered as part of the program, and were viewed with great interest and enthusiasm. Later, the group enjoyed a delightful social hour, with delicious refreshments served by members of the staff.

East Boston

After undergoing a period of extensive redecorating, which included completely new lighting and colorful paint, usual activities were resumed with the holding of the Ninth Annual Open House on Monday evening, March 22. On this same evening, the Fourth Art Exhibit, which includes works done by students in East Boston

schools and twenty-four individual artists in the community, was opened and will remain on display in the Adults' and Children's Rooms until April 24.

A fine musical program in the Lecture Hall included selections from operas, as well as popular songs, piano, and violin solos, piano duets, accordion and guitar duets played by one of our extra assistants, Lelia Battista, and her brother, and several dances by a group from the Central Square Center.

Cookies and punch were enjoyed in the Children's Room after the program. Anne Coleman, Branch Librarian, Jeffries Point, and Mrs Arthur Miranda of East Boston presided at the punch bowls. Many of her friends recognized Mrs Dorothy Pitman's delicate touch in the large quantity of dainty cookies which she had sent from Brooklyn. It was very nice to know that Mrs Pitman remembered us. The staff of East Boston wishes to thank their friends in the Library who generously gave us cookies for this occasion. We were also very happy to receive donations from several business organizations in East Boston, among which was a large basket of white and peach-colored gladiolas arranged against a background of ferns and laurel.

The many pleased comments from members of the library staff and the public telling us they enjoyed the program, the art work, and the cookies assures us that the evening was a success.

Jamaica Plain

For the second consecutive year, Edna Peck, Chief of Book Selection for Home Reading and Community Services, spoke at the April meeting of the Friends of the Jamaica Plain Branch Library concerning the Notable Books of the Year.

Miss Peck, as the staff expected, and the Friends soon learned, delivered an informative talk in her delightful and charming manner that makes her audience sigh with regret when she finishes. Coffee and goodies rounded out the meeting--also the Friends.

Mattapan

On Monday evening, March 29, the Friends of the Mattapan Branch Library featured for their monthly program a discussion of puppets and marionettes by Dorothy Dodworth, assistant in Children's Work at North End. Prior to her talk, Girl Scout Troop 347, under the direction of Mrs Albert Slavin, presented Stars and Stripes, a Revolutionary War play about the making of the first American flag, adapted for hand puppets. Using this play as an example, Miss Dodworth pointed out the value of puppetry for children in teaching cooperation, patience, and perseverance, as well as stimulating curiosity in historical research. The many anecdotes which she related during her discussion of the history of puppets and marionettes delighted the audience. Following this enjoyable program a coffee hour was held under the direction of the Entertainment committee.

At the April meeting of the Friends' group, Daniel J. Foley, editor of Horticulture and author of Annuals for Your Garden, Garden Flowers in Color, and Vegetable Gardening in Color, will give a lecture entitled "Gardening Can Be Everybody's Hobby." Since the group is particularly interested in gardening, the subject promises to attract a large audience.

*

On Tuesday evening, March 30, members of the Temple Beth Hillel Youth Commission led by Rabbi Sidney Steiman met at Mattapan to participate in a film forum. Two films on brotherhood, The House I Live In and The Races of Mankind, were shown, and the young people compared the effectiveness and general interest of each, contrasting particularly the live actors of one to the cartoon format of the other. The program concluded with the non-controversial Building a Nation. Discussion was informal and active and the audience indicated interest in further programs of the same type.

*

Members of the staff were delighted to welcome back Mrs Augusta Rubenstein after her recent illness.

Neponset

"Modern methods" for discovering and exploring new worlds in books have been used at Neponset since the Space Travelers' club was launched early this year. The club has been able to sustain the interest of our young readers for nearly three months.

"I never knew reading was so much fun!" cried a little third-grader after he had reported on his book and could pick his "capsule" for his next "base". The twelve Starting Bases, each named for one of the constellations of the Zodiac, represent twelve different fields, i.e.: Aries for fairy tales, Taurus for biography, Gemini for history and geography, Cancer for adventure stories, Leo for sport stories, Virgo for religion, Libra for science, Scorpio for animal stories, Sagittarius for arts and crafts, Capricornus for poetry, Aquarius for family stories, and Pisces for mystery and fanciful tales. Even the little second-graders want the thrill of picking the "capsule" from the metal box with its legend: "Your rocket flight leaves from base number I, Aries."; (or base number II, Taurus, or whatever it happens to be); then there is a mad rush to the poster with the Starting Bases to find out what the subject will be. The legend continues: "Consult your Flight Control Officer, Miss Saari, if you need help in choosing equipment (books) for the trip." Each club member owns a membership card on which the bases he has used and the books he has reported on are recorded. And though it is sometimes difficult to find just the right book for the base required, especially for the little ones, the starting bases help to introduce different types of books to the children and cause books to move which might otherwise be overlooked.

The Space Travelers' Club poster with its eleven colorful planets: Earth, Moon, Venus, Mars, Mercury, Saturn, Jupiter, Pluto, Neptune, Uranus, and baby Eros, adorned with the one hundred and sixty-five tiny silver space ships, each inscribed with the name of its owner, is a magnet that draws the attention of young and old alike. Thirty of the space ships flaunt a red star on the right wing in recognition of the fact that they have visited each of the planets. A blue star on the left wing of many of the ships proclaims that these ships have made the circuit twice, a gold star on the tail of some ships that the proud owners of these ships have traveled around the "universe" three times. Three girls have succeeded in making the circuit four times and are now on their fifth voyage. The children love to see their space ships "zoom" from planet to planet but they are also discovering how interesting the books can be that they have hitherto neglected.

Most of the one hundred and sixty-five members range from the second through the sixth grade but we do have some seventh and eighth graders and one very active first grader in the club also. Our boys were so excited over the project that they wanted to make a Space Travelers' poster, and so we had a poster made, complete with a space ship, a station, and asteroids, the joint work of three boys. The words "Discovering new worlds in books" were added by the "Flight Control Officer" and the poster was ready for display.

*

Tuesday, March 23, was a very busy day. Both children and adults were swarming about the many tables laden with samples of the children's handicraft and their collections of various objects.

The Children's Hobby Show exceeded all expectations in both quality and quantity. Forty-one different entries were on display ranging from hand-made scatter rugs to original oil paintings. There were dolls from all over the world and dolls' clothes neatly sewn by little fingers. Colorful pot-holders and an afghan in the making lent their brighthues to the display. There were numerous stamp, shell, coin, and picture card collections. The many collections of tiny planes and other models of transportation testified to the skill, patience, and perseverance of their youthful builders. A pirate ship complete with fierce pirates, treasure chest, guns, and the flag with its skull and crossbones proved especially magnetic to the younger boys.

From all these attractive and interesting hobbies Mrs Francis Corr, Mr George Magner, and Mr Meyer Shore, who had kindly consented to act as judges, finally decided to award the first prize to Michael King of Minot School, Grade 5, for the beautiful rug he had made of colored strips of cloth. They awarded the second prize to Frederick Ferguson of Mary Hemingway School, grade 5, for his magnificent collection of shells, and the third prize to Laraine Humora, Mary Hemingway School, for her lovely collection of dolls in hand-made dresses. There were three honorable mentions. The

first went to Marcia Currier, St Ann's, Gr. 8, for her doll collection, the second to John Faherty, St Ann's, Gr. 6, for his oil painting, and the third to Bernard Osborne, Minot School, Gr. 5, for his model planes.

Phillips Brooks

In celebration of St Patrick's Day Phillips Brooks displayed a lovely Irish exhibit for the month of March. Items of Caracmacross lace and Irish linen formed the base of the display in the hall case. Several carved pieces of bogwood, the Round Tower, a Celtic cross, a jaunting car and a broach, added dark accents. Silver Tara broaches and a shamrock pin of Cannemara marble were particularly interesting, as was the colorful Aran island belt. The beautiful was exemplified by a Belleck vase, the picturesque by a black thorn shillelagh, and the quaint by an Irish colleen doll and several small leprechauns. Two Mt Melary rosaries made of horn were a lovely addition to the display.

Residents of Readville who loaned items for the exhibit to the branch are: Mary Bowen, Patience Brown, Agnes Leahy and Catol Tately. The posters and scenic photographs of Ireland, which complemented the exhibit, were loaned by the Irish Tourist Information Bureau.

Roslindale

On Thursday evening, March 18, Rosalyn S. Warner, Children's Librarian, spoke before a meeting of the Mozart Home and School Association. Her talk, directed at the importance of reading material, new procedures, and how parents can stimulate an interest for books in their children, was enthusiastically received by the members present.

*

Ellen Richwagen, recently transferred to North End, was entertained by the staff at the Toll House in Whitman, on Saturday, March 27. She was presented with a surprise gift, a smart handbag.

South Boston

South Boston is very proud to announce that two members of its Imagination Club, Katherine Masselli and Barbara Simison, were awarded prizes for poems which they submitted to the annual world-wide competition of children's drawing and writing sponsored by Shankar's Weekly of New Delhi, India. Katherine Masselli is 11 years old and in the seventh grade of Girls' Latin School; at the time she wrote her prize poem she was in the sixth grade of the Norcross School. Barbara Simison is 11 year old and in the sixth grade of the Norcross School. The prize poems were published in the December 1953 Children's Number of Shankar's Weekly, and were chosen from among 17,000 entries from boys and girls of 44 countries. Prizes for the winners were donated by persons of distinction in India including the President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad; the Vice-President, Dr S. Radhakrishnan; and Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The judges were eminent officials, educators, and private citizens. Mrs Indira Gandhi was chairman of the selection committee which weeded out the entries for final judgment.

South Boston's Imagination Club is now one year old. It is an activity of the Children's Room under the direction of Martha C. Engler, Children's Librarian. The Club is devoted to the development of the creative abilities of the boys and girls who patronize South Boston. Virtually every child who is a regular attendant at the Library is a member and has contributed something towards the success of the Club. Original drawings, poems and stories are submitted to the Children's Librarian. The good ones are posted on a special Imagination Club bulletin board and the best of the items submitted are sent to such periodicals which accept children's work. During the one year of the Club's existence several children have had the thrill of seeing their creative efforts, poems and drawings, published in the Horn Book and in Highlights for Children. Mrs Irene Tuttle and all her staff at South Boston are justly proud of what the Imagination Club members have achieved.

CHORAL GROUP

The recently organized B.P.L. Choral Group requires the services of a new director, owing to the resignation from the staff of Blair Benner. Volunteers for this activity are requested to see or communicate with William d'Rosario, Fine Arts Department.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Editor:

Does it not seem grotesque that the Library should be closed on March 17 and April 19, which are local holidays, and open on Easter Sunday, which from the beginning has been the first and highest holiday of the Christian Church, and was celebrated long before the time of the Christmas festival was decided upon? This year, thanks to the moon, it also happens that the time of the Passover of the Jewish faith coincides with the date of Easter on April 18 (cf. a letter from Professor Bancroft H. Brown of Dartmouth College in the Boston Herald of April 6).

One may say, of course, that the practice of keeping the Library open on Sundays involves the inclusion of ecclesiastically special Sundays. That is right--but should not a difference be made for the greatest festival of the Christian year? Nobody can lightly exchange duty on his assigned Sunday, if it falls on Easter, with another staff member, because it would be Easter Sunday for that worker too. Then there is the familiar objection that somebody would be losing the time-and-a half that he had counted on if his Sunday work were omitted. That would not be so tragic if one know from the start that the year's cycle of Sundays contained just one less than before, and anyone in need of the money could, I presume, put in a Sunday's work in his vacation. I humbly invite discussion of this problem.

Paschala

Dear Editor:

Would it be possible to be brought up-to-date on the handling of lost and found articles?

The notice of October 28, 1944, Lost and Found Articles, says in part, "...Articles which are found by members of the staff about the building should be turned in to the office of the Superintendent of Buildings for safekeeping and return to rightful owners..." (underlining mine).

In the Staff Manual for the Bibliothecal Service. Trial Edition. November 1948. (Is there ever going to be another edition?) P 76 reads: "Articles left by members of the staff and of the public in any part of the Central Library building are to be sent to the Office of the Superintendent of Buildings, where a Lost and Found Record is made..."

It seems that "safekeeping" consists of placing the articles turned in on a window sill in a room which is not locked and which, at times is left unattended. I understand that after there is an accumulation of articles, they are removed elsewhere for storage, but in the meantime--? If any Lost and Found Record is made out, apparently the name of the finder and the location of the article when found is not included since no questions concerning these facts or any other facts are asked of the finder as far as I know.

And why should not a receipt be given to the finder in all cases but especially if the article found is a valuable one?

NOE REE WARD

Dear Editor:

Some time ago the Soap-Box carried an item called "Ballade Upon a Reference Letter," which enjoyed some popularity. Could I ask that the poem be reprinted to serve a new need at this time.

A Smeed fan

BALLADE UPON A REFERENCE REPLY

One Phineas Pharphel, clerke of Danbury, Conn.
Troubled by questions he did think upon
Bethought himself a letter he would write
With celerity and swiftly expedite
To seek the answer to his mystery
Unto the large and public library
Which situate in Boston town doth be
Noted for prompt and simple courtesy.

Betimes the letter came to Copley Square
Passed through the divers official channels there
Was stamped and dated by the higher echelon
And then the lower until it came anon
With dispatch and with right good speed
Unto the hand of Athanasius Smeed.
A lowly reference fellow was this Smeed,
Quite fond of lore and given to bookish screed,
Who took to heart each notice and memorandum
(Swallowed 'em whole while others only scanned 'em)
Ambitious, young and happy in the notion
Advancing years would bring a Big Promotion.

Right merrily and with a right good will
Smeed set to work and searched and searched until
Within a tome quite ancient, beat and musty
He came upon the answer "presto fusti"
(Which is Italian for, "I do declare
Who'd ever think to find that there thing there.")
Straightway he sat to write his discovery
Unto the scholar in distant Danbury
In simple language such as he was taught
In the grammar school where learning he had sought;
Dotted each i and corssed each tiny t
And felt his mind at rest and conscience free.

He little recked the chore he thought all done
Was only just, and not too well, begun,
For libraries large and proud of reputation
Before they'll send a letter through the nation
Blessed with their sign and signature upon it
Must have it perfect as Petrarchean sonnet;
And for to safeguard 'gainst fate melancholy
Brought on by indiscreet and youthful folly
Have wisely chosen experts to examine
Each reference letter for deadly gravamen.

Smeed's paltry prose they pounced upon with glee
Uncovering each fault with great alacrity;
Inserting colons where colons there were none,
Inserting semi's where commas were begun.
And one did think the choice of words too massive;
And one did think the mood not enough passive;
And one did think it brief unto a failing;
And one did think it hypersesquipedalian.
And so it went and so corrections grew
'Til Ossa piled on Pelion poor Smeed knew.

(There was no malice in it, there's no question,
For all remarks were meant just as suggestion,
But since suggestions were scribbled on his letter
Smeed had to type it over; 'twould look better.)

So back and forth it whisked, the sad epistle,
And Smeed, careworn, forgot to sing or whistle.
Unhappy Smeed as his mistakes grew more,
He made mistakes he'd never heard of before,
'Til lo! at last, as he reached the breaking point,
Tired and weary, an ache in every joint,
His answer was approved without delay
Three years from date received right to the day

And then anon there came a grateful note
From Danbury, Connecticut, 'twas wrote,
"My husband would have found your answer fascinating
But Phineas Pharphel died while he was waiting."

The End

LATE FLASH

Mr and Mrs Paul Conlon have announced the birth of a second son, Robert Francis, on April 12. Mrs Conlon is the former Mildred Francis of Branch Issue and Business Office.

NOTICE

The following unbound issues of Subscription Books Bulletin have not been on shelf in the Staff Library for some months and are not charged out. It is urgently requested that they be returned to the Staff Library so that the set may be bound.

1950 Volume 21 Numbers 1, 2
1951 Volume 22 Number 1

LATER FLASH

Bon Voyage to Anne M. Connolly, South End, who has left for three months in Mexico, where she will visit a niece and travel extensively.

H A P P Y E A S T E R!

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume IX, Number 5 May 1954

Publications Committee: Gerald L. Ball, John J. McCafferty, Sheila W. Pierce, Sarah M. Usher, Charles J. Gillis, Chairman

Publication date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

Several weeks ago the 1954 Professional Staff Association membership cards were sent out. I was present when some sub-professionals received theirs. In a group of about seven, the only reaction was indifference. One young man didn't even know what the Staff Association was. He barely remembered joining and he said he only did so because he thought he had to.

Until a couple of years ago, sub-professionals really felt that they were a part of the Association. They discussed various issues at relief time and over their lunches, issues that didn't necessarily concern them and their jobs. They enjoyed attending meetings and they were anxious about the outcome of elections. And it didn't take new staff members long to find out about the Association. They heard their friends discussing it and they heard mention of it, however casual, all during their work week. But between then and now something has happened.

It can't be said that the Association is to blame. Its reasons for existence are clear and the sub-professional can find them out simply by asking a few questions. It was organized by library people for library people and its purpose is to give these people a chance to discuss mutual problems with the hope of finding solutions. It has no powers outside of itself and, strictly speaking, it has no rights. Its there simply to give you a chance to bring your problems to the attention of others.

Perhaps you're asking, where is the incentive for the sub-professional's learning more about a group that clearly calls itself the Professional Staff Association? Where is the assurance that, in that Association, the sub-professional has as much voice as the Professional? Perhaps you're convinced that nobody cares about the sub-professionals. I think the important thing is that the sub-professionals care about themselves. If you feel that the sub-professionals have a problem, talk about it. Bring it up at the meetings. Nag and nag and keep on nagging. Make people realize that it's important to you. If you feel that we don't have adequate representation among the Association officers, talk about it. Write to the Soap-Box. That's what it's here for. If having something to gripe about and someone to gripe to are the only things that will stimulate your interest, then do so, by all means. Anything is better than indifference.

And remember, if you refuse to take advantage of a chance to solve your problems, or at least convince others that they are problems, you're giving up one of your most precious rights--your right to complain.

Sheila W. Pierce

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 15.	Fourth Annual Film Festival, Sheraton Plaza Hotel, 9 a.m.
May 17.	B.P.L.Q.C.C., annual luncheon, Hotel Lenox, 12 n.
May 17-20.	S.L.A. annual convention, Cincinnati.
May 20-21.	M.L.A. annual meeting, The Northfield, East Northfield.
May 28.	B.P.L.P.S.A. business meeting, Lecture Hall, Central Library, 9 a.m.
June 3.	Mary U. Nichols Book Prize Awards, North End, 8 p.m.

PERSONAL NOTES

Re-entered Service

Mrs Elizabeth F. Scannell has returned to full-time employment at Kirstein.

Retirement

Ralph H. Mann, Buildings Department, after 23 years of service.

Transfers

Louis R. O'Halloran, from Cataloging and Classification (H.R. and C.S.) to the Office of the Div. of H.R. and C. S.

Helen A. Connell, from Lower Mills to Mattapan.

Carolyn A. Linehan, from Connolly to Mt Bowdoin.

Irene M. Mains, from Mt Bowdoin to Hospital Library Service.

Resignation

Elizabeth Sarjeant, Hospital Library Service.

BIRTHS

Mr and Mrs John Lerch have announced the birth of a son, Bruce Werner, on April 20. Mrs Lerch is on leave of absence from Audio-Visual. Mr Lerch formerly worked in Periodical and Newspaper.

*

Mr and Mrs Asbury H. Herrick have announced the birth of a daughter, Sarah Elaine, on April 21. Mrs Herrick is on leave of absence from North End.

*

Mr and Mrs Robert Woodward have announced the birth of a son, Matthew Robert, on May 2.

WEDDINGS

On April 24, Elizabeth Sarjeant, Hospital Library Service, was married to John Robert Bernier at St Gregory's Church, Dorchester. Following a honeymoon in New York State and Canada, Mr and Mrs Bernier will make their home in Baltimore.

*

On Sunday, May 2, 1954, Phoebe Lipsky, Office of Division of Home Reading and Community Services, became the bride of Harold Reff. After a honeymoon in Quebec, Mr and Mrs Reff will make their home in Riverdale, New York.

BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY
to

John W. Tuley, Fire Control Center
Elizabeth M. Kernachan, Mt Bowdoin
Isabel G. Finn, Bookmobile II
Elizabeth S. Good, Central Charging Records
Rosemary M. Corcoran, Office of Div. of H.R. and C. S.
Palmira Piciulo, Cataloging and Classification (R. and R. S.)

WE WELCOME BACK

A. Gertrude Barry, Personnel
Marjorie Gibbons, Washington Village
Ruth McNamee, Branch Issue

BPLPSA WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mrs Harriet Holve, Business Office
Nancy A. Lovis, Trustees' Office
Margaret Macdonald, Director's Office
Hugh S. MacKay, Central Charging Records
Joseph N. O'Brien, Central Charging Records

CONGRATULATIONS
to

Helen Pappas, Information, who was one of a committee of four judges in the "Rose Marie" contest sponsored by the Sheraton Plaza Hotel and the Canadian National Railways.

Frederick E. Danker, part-time assistant, Book Stack Service, who has been placed on the Dean's List at Harvard where he is a Sophomore. Fred is the son of J. J. Danker, Buildings.

Marie Devlin, Book Selection (H.R. and C.S.) who has been chosen a delegate to the Republican pre-primary convention to be held in Worcester on June 12, 1954.

BON VOYAGE
to

Evelyn Levy, Egleston Square, and Taimi Lilja, Codman Square, who sailed on the Ryndam, from Hoboken, on Friday, April 30, for two months in England and France.

*

Mildred R. Somes, Book Preparation, who flies to Bermuda on May 15, where she will spend two weeks.

Dorothy Dodworth, North End, who sailed on May 14 for two months in England, Scotland, France, and Italy.

CIVIL DEFENSE

Official Daylight Air Raid Test

On Saturday, April 24, the City of Boston Department of Civil Defense conducted a region-wide test involving public participation. The Red Alert sounded at 9:05 a.m. and the White Alert (All-Clear Signal) at 9:15 a.m.

The Central Library building opened as usual at 9 a.m., but the public was not permitted to go beyond the main entrance hall until after 9:15 a.m. Branch Libraries also opened at 9 a.m. and followed the regular procedure in effect during previous Air Raid Tests. Excellent cooperation by both public and staff members was reported throughout the library system.

Group Meetings

As planned by the Department of Civil Defense, Social Services Division, group meetings took place on April 28, at 2:30 p.m., in thirteen junior high school buildings throughout the city. Arrangements within each building were made by the Headmaster, following a plan of procedure set forth by Civil Defense headquarters. Registration took place prior to the general meeting, at which background information on Civil Defense was presented either by the Headmaster or a representative from Civil Defense headquarters. Group meetings followed at which registration was taken for each particular group, and mimeographed material on the work of the unit was distributed.

Following the meetings, all volunteers from the Library, in response to a brief questionnaire, have given their frank reactions to the value of the meetings. A summary is being prepared and will be forwarded to Civil Defense headquarters, in the belief that this information, supplied in a spirit of cooperation, will be of aid in making plans for future action.

Sarah M. Usher

BPL STAFF IN PRINT

The Boston Sunday POST's new Accent on Youth section has recently been carrying a Teen About Town column by Linda Pagliuca, of North End. Miss Pagliuca has been writing a regular Teen Topics column in THE ITALIAN NEWS, a local North End newspaper, for some time.

B.P.L. IN HONG KONG SCHOOL

Is anyone planning a vacation to Hong Kong this summer? If so, we recommend a visit to the Maryknoll Sisters in Kowloon Tong. There, you will not only meet Sisters from Boston and other parts of New England, but you will see two of our Holy Grail pictures proudly displayed. In order to bring a touch of Boston to Hong Kong, the Sisters recently purchased large-size paintings of the Departure and the Golden Tree. Now, suitably framed, they adorn the walls of the new School Library and are of general interest to all and an inspiration to the Chinese children.

CARE

A gentle reminder that you CARE
The burden of others a bit to pare.
Though the need is still really great
Contributions have been lagging up-to-date.
With me I hope you will bear
When again I ask that you CARE.

FOUND IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Simple library cataloging, by Susan G. Akers
This book may be claimed by the owner in the Personnel Office.

A. L. A. Annual Conference 1954

Minneapolis, Minnesota

June 20-26

J O I N A. L. A. N O W!!!

For application blanks, contact:

Sarah M. Usher
A.L.A. Membership Committee
Office of Records, Files, Statistics

A NOTE OF THANKS

My warm appreciation and heartfelt greeting to those who made the afternoon of Wednesday, April 14, such a memorable and happy occasion for me. All of it was wholly unexpected and came as a total surprise.

The handsome memory book, designed and executed so well by the Binding Department, contains so many expressions of friendship and warm good wishes that it will be a prized possession to turn to oftentimes in the future days.

The other tokens of esteem given to me are highly valued as well. An etching by Mr Heintzelman of Beethoven presented to me by the Music Department staff in the early afternoon will have an honored place in my home. It will serve as a constant reminder of the excellent cooperation and loyalty of a capable staff.

Later in the afternoon I had a conference scheduled with Mr Hunsley to discuss Music Department organization and acquisition policies. It was interrupted very delightfully by a mass invasion of the office by Department Heads and colleagues in the Division of Reference and Research Services. At this time I was overwhelmed with a gift [on behalf of the staff of the B.P.L.] of fine opera glasses and a serviceable barometer which pleased me greatly. The day of surprises was not yet complete! The ensuing coffee hour was memorable and touched me very much. The warm expression of good wishes by staff members and a few distinguished music friends made the occasion truly memorable and touched me very much.

To one and all who made this occasion such a happy one, and to all those with whom I have had such pleasant associations in the past, I give my heartfelt thanks and my warm greetings.

Richard G. Appel

"A man with both feet on the ground hasn't far to fall."

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The Library's Open House festivities on Sunday, May 2, brought to a pleasant conclusion the formal celebration of the Centennial. It has been a year of events which we shall often recall. The magnificent Centennial Dinner for the Library Staff; the Staff's Centennial Gift to the Library, a gift which has been proposed to be a part of the addition to the Library as a memorial to the Library's dead of World War II; the Centennial Fair with its wonderful spirit of fun and camaraderie; the Library's Open House and Birthday Party; all these contributed to make 1953-54 a most memorable one for the staff.

Yet, we must still look to the future and it promises to be a glorious and exciting one. Our Centennial Musical Revue, which will be presented in the fall, will continue, we are sure, the high level of accomplishment attained in the past year.

The Centennial Celebration has served to acquaint both librarian and layman with the historic significance and momentous progress of the Boston Public Library in its first century. But the goal of our efforts is yet to be attained--the provision of more adequate library services and resources for the community in the proposed new addition to the Central Library Building and in new branch libraries. The fund raising for this purpose is expected to continue for several years. And so, in a sense, the Centennial Celebration will continue until the new addition is built and functioning. The spirit of helpfulness and cooperation which have characterized the past year will not fail to speed the day when our goal will be achieved.

*

The Executive Board, at its March meeting, authorized the selection of Charles L. Higgins, Chief of General Reference, as a nominee of the Professional Staff Association for the Steering Committee of the Staff Organizations Round Table for 1954-55.

B. Joseph O'Neil

ROUND TABLE OF LIBRARIANS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The Spring Meeting was held on Thursday morning, May 6, at the new Thayer Memorial Library in South Braintree. Following a coffee hour and a business meeting, presided over by Isabel Handy, Chairman, Harry Stubbs, science teacher at Milton Academy and author (under the pseudonym of Hal Clement), and A. Phyllis Freeman, assistant at Mattapan, discussed the selection of science-fiction novels for young adult readers.

Although he has published many short stories in leading science-fiction magazines and has been praised by critics for his novels, Iceworld (1953), Mission of Gravity (1954) and Needle (1950), the last being almost a classic in this field, Mr Stubbs modestly disclaimed his prowess as a critic. In attempting to set up some criteria for evaluating science-fiction, he began by tracing its development from Homer's Odyssey and eighteenth century scientists like Kepler through H. G. Wells to early twentieth century examples of the typical western plot backgrounded in space and peopled with supermen. That science-fiction has today advanced in literary merit far beyond such incredible, stereotyped material is due in part, he feels, to the critical standards set up by John W. Campbell, Jr, editor of Astounding Science Fiction magazine. That the field is rising in public esteem, he feels is due to the fact that many astute writers predicted such an explosion as that at Hiroshima long before 1945. Since leading science fiction authors aim at plausibility, logical plot development, and convincing characterization, it is reasonable, then, for librarians to demand these elements of good writing. Exact scientific accuracy is, on the other hand, less important. In fact, the dividing line between science-fiction and fantasy almost defies definition. Here the main question is still the one which the critic should always ask: What has the author tried to do and has he succeeded in doing it? To censor Hal Clement for poor characterization would be foolish, said Mr Stubbs, since he does not pretend to be able to recreate people and deliberately uses as characters creatures from other planets. His own aim, Mr Stubbs revealed, is to bring together facts and hypotheses from latest scientific research, to fashion them into a logical story and then to sit back defying anyone to pick flaws in his science. (Someone, incidentally, rocked Mr Stubbs' self confidence by pointing out a glaring error concerned with sailing which appeared in Mission of Gravity).

In essence, Miss Freeman agreed with Mr Stubbs' criteria for judging science-fiction. Having become an unofficial expert upon this field by dint of extensive reading and having wide experience with adolescents in her capacity as an assistant in charge of work with young adults, Miss Freeman has found that literary merit and scientific accuracy usually go hand in hand and that young people seek first a good story. However, she noted some leading writers like Ray Bradbury who produce provocative, highly entertaining stories which prove to be almost entirely inaccurate or improbable in their hypotheses. Pointing out that junior high school students may best be introduced to science-fiction through the books of Robert Heinlein which lead naturally to the usually acceptable Winston science-fiction series, Miss Freeman concluded by distributing to the group a valuable bibliography which she had originally prepared for the training course in Literature for Young Adults given at the Boston Public Library.

After the meeting, Round Table members--including the large number of Boston Public Library staff present--enjoyed a tour of the modern, sunlit building conducted by their hostesses, the staff of the Thayer Memorial Library, and lunched together at the Allison House, Braintree.

BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM

City of Boston Employees Blood Donor Program

Many employees who have been unable to join the City of Boston Employees Blood Donor Program because of a history of jaundice or malaria are now eligible, it appears, according to an article in the Boston Sunday Post, May 9, 1954, p. 3.

"Men and women formerly turned down because they once suffered from either jaundice or malaria now are being accepted as blood donors by the Red Cross, Chairman Daniel Needham of the blood

program disclosed last night.

Persons who have had jaundice but have suffered no attacks during the past two years can now give blood. Those who have had malarial fever or suppressive therapy for malaria and have had no malarial attack or therapy for the past six months are also eligible.

The blood given by these donors will not be used as whole blood or plasma, General Needham explained, but will be made into blood fractions.

"The men and women who care enough about their fellow men to give blood, whether they have medical histories or always have been in top health," General Needham said, "are the backbone of our program. We always need new donors to meet the constant demands made on our blood bank."

CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The New England Unit met at the Boston Public Library on May 8, at 2 p.m. Despite the rainy weather, about sixty members and guests were present, from as far away as Springfield, and Portland, Maine.

The first speaker of the day, Milton E. Lord, Director, was introduced by the Chairman of the Unit, Thomas Reiners. Mr Lord welcomed the group and gave a most interesting talk on the Library, past and present. He was followed by Patrick F. McDonald, President of the B.P.L. Trustees who added his word of welcome and paid tribute to the organization.

Mr Reiners presented a testimonial to the Library from the Catholic Library Association, together with a check, a small offering for the Centennial Fund.

Mary Alice Rea, Program Director, then acted as Moderator of a panel discussion on Visual Aids. Four specialists took part in the discussion: Lottie Lenn, art critic of The PILOT and faculty member of the New England Conservatory of Music; Arthur Sheehan of New York, film director for CARE; Francis E. Murphy, director of audio-visual work at Boston College; and Euclid J. Peltier of the B.P.L. Audio-Visual Department.

Before and after the meeting tours of the building were in order, and as one guest expressed it, "I am amazed at the mazes in this building." Punch and cookies, served in the lounge, ended an enjoyable day.

Anna L. Manning

BOWLING LEAGUE BANQUET

The fifth annual Banquet of the B.P.L. Bowling League was held on Tuesday night, April 27, at the Five O'clock Club. The delicious steaks and southern fried chicken put on again all the extra poundage that the hardy bowlers lost during the season.

Team and individual prizes were awarded to honored champs. First place in the standings went to Team #2, nicknamed the "cellar dwellers" and captained by Bill Di Rosario of Fine Arts. Jerry Cudmore of Cataloging, Don Ross, formerly of Cataloging, Julia Walker, formerly of South End, and Joan Mullaney were the other members of the championship team.

Jack Kyle of the Stock Room was the Master of Ceremonies. Jack was his usual genial self in presenting the "certificate of achievment" awards (Form 8096½C#2, he says) to all the bowlers. A key-ring adorned with a bowling ball and pin were given to each League member as a special memento of its wooden anniversary.

Anne Doherty of Charlestown was the only member of the league who came from a Branch and we would really like to have many more of the branch personnel in the league. So let this be a special invitation to all the branches to send in their bowlers for a bigger and better Boston Public Library Bowling League next season.

Grantland Ricepatty

SOMEWHERE IN THE LIBRARY . . .

14. The late Joseph Linden Smith, American artist, who died Oct. 18, 1950 at the age of 87 years, had been in his lifetime an honorary curator of the department of Egyptian art at the Museum of Fine Arts, and a member of the visiting committee of the Semitic and ancient Egyptian civilization department at Harvard University. When he was yet a young painter in Boston, before he became famous for his reproduction of ancient Egyptian art, Mr Smith was commissioned by the Boston Public Library to decorate a portion of the Central Library building. Can you locate the art work which Mr Smith did for the Library in the early years of the Central Library building?

15. Elmer E. Garnsey, American artist and mural painter, concentrated upon mural painting and color as applied to architecture. Mr Garnsey's decorations in this Library are considered to be a concrete example of his work. His work has been described as having a strong architectural character and "his color schemes show the influence of the ancient wall-paintings of Pompeii, as well as that of the Italian masters of the Renaissance." Can you locate the artistic work that Mr Garnsey executed for the Library?

16. The two great poems, the Iliad and the Odyssey, are represented in one of the Library's paintings by two female figures: one wears a helmet and carries a spear, appropriate to the theme of the Iliad; the other figure holds an oar, appropriate to the theme of the Odyssey. Can you locate these personifications?

17. In what painting in the library can you see portrayed the daughters of Jupiter and Mnemosyne: Calliope, Clio, Erato, Euterpe, Melpomene, Polyhymnia, Terpsichore, Thalia, and Urania.

Answers to April questions

10. Thomas Sergeant Perry. The Perry memorial tablet is on the north wall of the courtyard.

11. Charles Follen McKim, architect. The McKim memorial is on the wall of the landing of the staircase leading to the Sargent corridor.

12. On the west wall of Bates Hall over the balcony above the main entrance to the Hall is a hemisphere crossed by a belt of the signs of the zodiac.

13. Viewed from Puvis de Chavannes corridor, it is the first painting on the left in the Philosophy panel of the Puvis de Chavannes group.

Paul V. Moynihan

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF

A.L.A. Grants

$100 each toward the expense of attendance at the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 20 - 26, 1954:

George E. Earley, General Reference
Virginia Haviland, Open Shelf
Charles L. Higgins, General Reference
Esther E. Jalonen, Cataloging and Classification (R. and R. S.)
Pauline Winnick, Open Shelf

Scholarship Awards

$100 each for study at library schools during the twelve-month period dating from June 15, 1954:

Charles R. Meehan, Teachers
Joseph H. Center Scholarship
Mary M. Mehlman, Mattapan
Daniel Treadwell Scholarship
Bette B. Preer, Mt Pleasant
Daniel Sharp Ford Scholarship
Lawrence K. Vezin, Open Shelf
Francis Skinner Scholarship

BOOK BONERS
RECEIVED IN BRANCH ISSUE

The Neck Romancer
(The Necromancer)
Bitch of Book and Wall
(Bitch of Buchenwald: Isle Koch)
Tender Loin in the Streets
(Lion in the Street)
Two-door Wench
(Tudor Wench)
Jude the Obscene
(Jude the Obscure)
Crockery in the Public Schools
(Quackery in the Public Schools)

"There are minute men, wait a minute men and last minute men."

APPOINTED TO FILL VACANCY

Pauline Winnick, Open Shelf, has been appointed to fill an unexpired term as Secretary of the Asscciation of Young People's Librarians, A.L.A.

CENTENNIAL NOTES

Re-dedication Ceremony

The public celebration of the Centennial Year came to an impressive end on Sunday, May 2, from 3 to 6 o'clock. A re-dedication ceremony was the focus of attention for over two thousand visitors. Bates Hall, where the ceremony took place, was cleared of tables and desks and provided a memorable setting. Just inside the central entrance to the Hall was a platform where a giant birthday cake, decorated with one hundred candles, was displayed. In the center of the Hall was the speakers' platform. A large number of Spring flowers adorning both platforms caused exclamations of pleasure from many appreciative visitors. A chamber-music ensemble provided music suited to the solemn occasion. Among the officials present to greet the visitors during the reception period were: Patrick F. McDonald, President of the Trustees; Frank W. Buxton and Lee M. Friedman, Trustees; Milton E. Lord, Director; and Ralph M. Binney, General Chairman of the Centennial Commission.

Assisting in directing the public to the ceremony and answering questions were a group of Library staff members. This group also provided guided tours which included inspection of four models of the Library and the proposed addition, which were on display in the Abbey Room.

The Outdoor Library, an extension of the Open Shelf Department, was opened to the public for the first time. This Library, situated at either end of the Courtyard, was a center of attraction, as was the Courtyard itself. Hundreds of plants in bloom brightened the festive occasion, and lent color to the usually quiet atmosphere of the Courtyard.

At four o'clock the ceremony was formally opened by Mr Lord when he addressed the assemblage. He paid tribute to three founders of the Library: George Ticknor, Edward Everett, and Joshua Bates. He concluded with a statement that the library officials and staff "now rededicate our actions and efforts solemnly to the ideals of these three founders of the Library."

Mayor John B. Hynes spoke of his extensive use of the Library in his youth, and commented on the majestic beauty of Bates Hall. He expressed his conviction that in another one hundred years we will lead all the other libraries of the world because our plans are laid in that direction.

Mr McDonald spoke feelingly of the symbolism of the Holy Grail murals and how it can affect our lives today. He also revealed that plans now completed will result in making at least fifteen of the thirty-three Branch Libraries as good as those at Egleston Square and Adams Street.

Mr Binney paid tribute to the more than six hundred and fifty men and women of the Centennial Commission who gave valuable time and assistance to further the interests of the Centennial Celebration.

The ceremonies ended with the cutting of the birthday cake by Mrs Michael White, a great granddaughter of George Ticknor.

Charles J. Gillis

VISITORS

Dr Gunther Beckers, Director of Cultural Affairs, Hanau, Germany
Dr Hans Breddin, Editor, Bucherei und Bildung, Würtemberg, Germany
German Garcia, Director-Bibliotecario De La Asociacion, Bernardino Rivadavia, Argentina
Sigurd Mohlenbrock, Head Librarian, Public Library, Norrkoping, Sweden

RETIREMENT

Ralph Mann

You undoubtedly have read last month's Question Mark; if not, you should have, for our John has gone.

Now, Great Balls of Fire and Stuff--that Mann about Town, Ralph to you, son, has pulled up stakes, taken to his chaise longue for a much needed rest. Ralph is a staunch patriot, a great Legionnaire, and a Prince at heart. A "Mann" that worked while we slept and he could polish things off in his own inimitable way.

(with apologies to—no one)

RECENT APPOINTMENT

The Executive Board has authorized the appointment of Abraham Snyder, Cataloging and Classification (R. and R. S.) as Special Advisor to the Pensions Committee.

AN ALUMNUS REMEMBERS

Edward J. Moore, who retired from the Library in 1946 after 17 years in the Buildings Department, recently expressed in a very tangible way his appreciation of his past connection with the B.P.L. He presented to the Library a copy of Bishop Fulton J. Sheen's latest book, Life is Worth Living.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction--Library Science

Becker, May L. First adventures in reading; introducing children to books. Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1947

Davis, Mary G. Randolph Caldecott, 1846-1886 Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1946

Duff, Annis. "Bequest of wings," a family's pleasure with books. New York, Viking, 1944

Eaton, Annie T. Reading with children New York, Viking, 1952

Eaton, Annie T. Treasure for the taking, a book list for boys and girls. New York, Viking, 1951

Rose, Ernestine. The public library in American life. New York, Columbia University Press, 1954

Schenk, Gretchen K. County and regional library development. Chicago, American Library Association, 1954

Winchell, Constance M., ed. Guide to reference books, 7th ed. Suppl. Chicago, American Library Association, 1954

Non-Fiction

Bellonci, Maria. The life and times of Lucrezia Borgia. New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1953

Brooks, Cleanth. Understanding fiction. New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1943

Highet, Gilbert. Man's unconquerable mind. New York, Columbia University Press, 1954

Merton, Thomas. Bread in the wilderness. New York, 1953

FICTION

Thompson, Morton. Not as a stranger. New York, Scribner, 1954

DEPARTMENT NOTES

Information Office

On May 6, Mrs Isabella (Pennampede) Windham, former member of the staff, visited the office. She and her husband were en route to California where he will spend a brief period of study before returning to the Naval Base at Norfolk, Virginia.

Open Shelf

Pauline Winnick, past president of Metropolitan Business and Professional Chapter, B'nai B'rith, has been elected recently Recording Secretary of B'nai B'rith Greater Boston Council, and Corresponding Secretary of B'nai B'rith Greater Boston Donor Dinner Committee.

Print Department

On Thursday afternoon, May 6, a tea and reception was held in Print in honor of the artist, Robert Fulton Logan, whose etchings and drypoints, acquired by the Library last December, are on exhibition in the Albert H. Wiggin Gallery during the month of May. Many notables attended, including Mme. Charles-Roux, the wife of the French Consul in Boston.

Mr Logan is a former Bostonian, and his prints, mostly of architectural subjects in France, are a most important addition to the Library's collections.

BRANCH NOTES

Allston

On the evening of April 9, the Young Adult Council of the Allston Branch Library sponsored an Open House for Young Adults. The audience, consisting of twenty-eight boys and girls, was held enthralled by Edna G. Peck's entertaining book reviews. During a brief intermission the group browsed through the Young Adult Alcove and examined new books which composed a special book display. These titles were included on book-lists distributed at the beginning of the evening. The second part of the program consisted of a film, March of the Movies, which was enjoyed by all. The festivities concluded with the serving of refreshments made by the members of the council and the staff.

Connolly

Some people are inspired to song by

spring, some by love. A fifth grade class at Blessed Sacrament School has been inspired by the Connolly Library. Their song is set to the music of "The farmer in the dell".

OUR LIBRARY

There are books for girls and boys,
There are books for girls and boys,
Up in the Connolly Branch,
There are books for girls and boys.

The books are on the shelves,
The books are on the shelves,
Up in the Connolly Branch,
So come and help yourselves.

Mrs Benner's always there,
Miss Cotter's always there
And they will help you choose a book.
Please handle it with care.

It's always fun to go,
It's always fun to go,
Up to the Connolly Branch
To see a puppet show.

You'll like the movies, too
You'll like the movies, too,
Up in the Connolly Branch,
For most of them are new.

There are many things to see,
There are many things to see,
Up in the Connolly Branch,
The place for you and me.

*

Mrs Blair Benner, Children's Librarian at Connolly, recently appeared on WEEI's Q and A program. Attorney General George Fingold spoke on juvenile delinquency in Massachusetts. Mrs Benner was one of three representatives of the Big Sister organization who told what is being done to prevent delinquency among girls.

Egleston Square

The final meeting of the Friends of the Egleston Square Branch Library was held April 22, in honor of the Centennial Celebration of the Boston Public Library. Milton E. Lord, Director, was the principal speaker. An additonal feature was the announcement of the winners of the Centennial Essay Contest, sponsored by the Friends, for children who use the Library. Presentations were made by Elizabeth M. Gordon, Deputy Supervisor In Charge of Work with Children, who had served as one of the judges of the contest. A social hour rounded off a very pleasant evening, and brought to a conclusion the first successful year of activity of this new group of Friends.

*

The members of the staff presented an overnight case to Evelyn Levy, their Branch Librarian, at an informal tea shortly before she left Boston to sail for Europe.

Mattapan

On Tuesday, April 27, the Mattapan Branch Young Adult Council sponsored a jazz evening at the Branch. After the film, Introduction to Jazz, was shown, George Solano, a member of the Jazz Workshop, conducted therest of the program, playing and discussing recordings, with emphasis on the "new Music," to which the response of the young people was not entirely favorable. The Council has made tentative plans for another, not quite so esoteric, program of music for the fall season.

During the first two weeks of May an exhibit of the work of gifted Mattapan junior high school artists received many favorable comments. The young artists, students of Joyce Benvie, an extra assistant at West Roxbury, executed unusually fine paintings in various mediums. Special mention was given to their work in the local paper.

North End

On May 11, Dorothy Dodworth, assistant in the Children's Room, was guest of the staff at a bon voyage dinner at the Stella Restaurant, at which she was also presented with a gift. Miss Dodworth is taking a vacation trip to Europe.

West End

The April 15, 1954, Passover Issue of the JEWISH ADVOCATE carried an article entitled Judaica: Unique Cultural Asset of Boston, by Fanny Goldstein, Curator of Judaica. This article is an exhaustive historic account which describes and evaluates the Library's Judaica Collection,

much of which is housed at West End. Reprints of this article may be had upon request to the author.

*

Activity in the Children's Room during April centered around the Spring Festival Book Club. Instead of a conventional Honor Roll, there was an orchard of rolling green hills in which each member planted a tree bearing a bright blossom for each book read and reported on. There was a mailbox with Spring decoration for the deposit of book reports, as well as a bulletin board for "Best Book Reports of the Week". Jackets of new books have been on display, and the walls of the room sport a border of saucy baby animals and spring flowers.

The Easter Exhibit in the display case featured an Egg Tree standing in a grassy plot, while around it were baskets of colored eggs, chickens on nests and chickens just hatching from bright shells. The children accepted the eggs in nests, baskets or grass as real eggs, but denied that recognition to the eggs on the tree, because "Who ever saw an egg hang?" They labelled those "Easter bulbs" until they heard the explanation from the Katherine Milhaus book.

Some of our Easter and spring posters were done by the children, and brought out once more an interesting fact which we have frequently noticed: that is, that our children who skate on narrow sidewalks and jump rope in alleys always draw their children skipping and swinging in green parks where apple trees are blossoming and bluebirds are flying overhead.

Not to be outdone by the children, we took note of Audubon's birthday during the last week of April, displaying not only his picture and biography but also books and pictures of his famous studies of American birds.

STAFF ARTIST

Paul B. Swenson, Print, has had one of his etchings, House by the Sea accepted for the twelfth annual exhibition of prints, held in the memory of Joseph Pennell, at the Library of Congress.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

Dear Editor:

As the time for annual conventions approaches, a rather delicate question comes to mind. Would it not be feasible for the Trustees to accord to the members of the Catholic Library Association the same privilege in the matter of a leave for attendance at the Association's convention as is accorded to other national and regional associations. I realize that such matters are matters of privilege and there can be no question of anyone demanding time off as a right. I am sure no member of the Association thinks in such terms. Nor indeed would any of us care to make comparisons with other Associations for such comparisons would be odious.

However it just occurs to me that when very sincere people have shown by past experience that they are willing to make personal sacrifices of time and money to attend professional gatherings, the Trustees might deem it well to include them in privileges afforded others. By the way, lest anyone may think I am doing some special pleading, I assure you that I have neither the finances nor the inclination to attend conventions, not even the Democratic one in Worcester.

Eamon E. McDonough
General Reference

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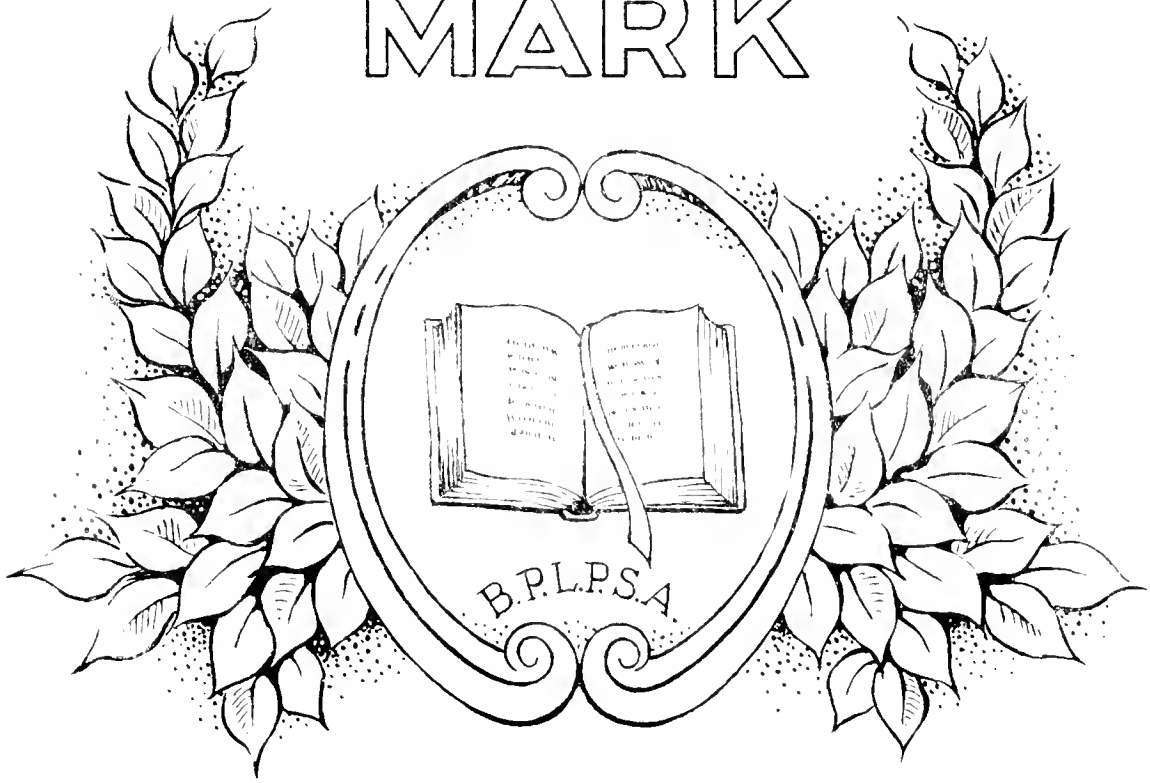
. . . . . June 20-26

THE Question MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

JUNE 1954

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume IX, Number 6 June 1954

Publications Committee: Gerald L. Ball, John J. McCafferty, Sheila W. Pierce, Sarah M. Usher, Charles J. Gillis, Chairman

Publication date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

At this point in the work-year, professional interests are apt to diminish in importance, due to the advent of warm weather and the imminence of vacation time. Recreation and relaxation become uppermost in our thoughts. For some of us vacation time means the opportunity to restore our energies and to gain a refreshed outlook on the future. For others, it provides an opportunity to travel and see new places and new faces--the chance to widen our horizon and maybe even come to a new and greater appreciation of our individual situations. For still others, it provides an opportunity to investigate new ideas and interpretations at ALA, or further education and training in summer sessions. But each one of us looks forward to this chance to get out of harness and seek new pastures.

Situations and problems which seem unsolvable or unbearable at the end of a long work-year can seem less desperate after a season of recreation or self-improvement. Judgments made preceding vacation are likely to seem unduly severe to those returning to duty refreshed and eager--refreshed in body and spirit, and eager to prove to themselves that things are not as bad as they could be.

Situations not to one's taste can be overcome, chiefly by that innate resilience possessed by humans, expressed by a philosopher as the postulate that man lives by hope, that when man can no longer look forward to better things to come, then indeed he is lost.

So, at this time your editor wishes to express his hope that Association members will enjoy a happy and carefree vacation, to return to the Library with renewed vigor and with the determination to pursue the objectives of the Association.

Charles J. Gillis

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 20-26. A.L.A. annual conference, Minneapolis

PERSONAL NOTES

Resignations

Mrs Irene B. Kerrigan, Book Preparation, to remain at home

Claire M. O'Donnell, Book Stack Service, to accept another position

Transfers

Isabelle G. Finn, from Bookmobile II to City Point.

Helen J. Nicholas, from Parker Hill to South End.

Mrs Ruth M. Wall, from Parker Hill to Roslindale.

BPLPSA WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mrs Joyce R. Kelley, Cataloging and Classification (R. and R. S.)

Helen Nicholas, Parker Hill

Josephine Shaw, South End

ENGAGEMENT

The engagement of Millicent Ann Hamer, Dorchester, to Hugh W. Smith was announced on June 10. They plan to be married in the Fall.

WEDDINGS

Sydney Shwom, Codman Square, became the bride of Hyman Whitman on Sunday evening, May 30. The ceremony was performed at the Dorchester Plaza, which was beautifully decorated with white and pink flowers. The bride wore white lace and carried a cascade of orchids. The couple are honeymooning at The Concord, in upper state New York.

Several days before the wedding the bride-to-be was given a small party by the

members of the staff, who presented her with an electric coffee maker.

BIRTHS

Mr and Mrs Joseph Runci have announced the birth of a daughter, Elaine Marie, on May 5. Mrs Runci is the former Alice O'Connell, of the Office of Division of H.R. and C. S. Mr Runci as Executive Secretary, Social Services Division, Boston Department of Civil Defense, is in frequent touch with the B.P.L.

VISITORS

Mrs Kaeta Seibicke, Librarian, State Library Center for South Wuerttemberg-Hohenzollern District, Reutlingen. Germany

Knuy Thalberg, Librarian, Faculty of Science, Oslo University, Blindern, Norway.

BON VOYAGE TO A.L.A. ATTENDANTS

Milton E. Lord, Director
G. Florence Connolly, Fine Arts
George E. Earley, General Reference
Elizabeth M. Gordon, Division of H.R. and C.S.
Virginia Haviland, Open Shelf
Charles L. Higgins, General Reference
Esther E. Jalonen, Cataloging and Classification, Division of R. and R.S.
Muriel C. Javelin, Division of H.R. and C.S.
Elvira J. Lavorgna, Fine Arts
Evelyn B. Marden, Bookmobile I
Beryl Y. Robinson, Egleston Square
Pauline Winnick, Open Shelf
Elizabeth L. Wright, Personnel

AN INVITATION TO A WEDDING-TO-BE

On June 26, Maurice Rahilly, formerly of Audio-Visual, will wed Patricia Kane at St Matthew's Church in Dorchester, at 10:00 A.M. The bridegroom extends a cordial invitation to his Library friends to attend the ceremony. Mr Rahilly is now a member of the staff at the New York State Maritime College, Fort Schuyler, N. Y.

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

On June 1, a number of staff friends gathered at the Darbury Room for a surprise luncheon in honor of Helen G. Pappas, Information, who will leave the service of the Library to be married on June 19 to Arthur J. F. Sullivan, formerly of Arlington.

Along with a beautiful orchid corsage and a bouquet of flowers, Miss Pappas was presented with three serving pieces in her Silver Wheat pattern from her many friends throughout the Library.

Many friends were happy to see Elizabeth B. Boudreau at the luncheon. In spite of her illness, she joined the spirit of surprise and acted as a decoy to get Miss Pappas to the Darbury Room.

*

On June 14, Janice G. Lane, Office of Division of Home Reading and Community Services, was guest of honor at a surprise luncheon at Joseph's. Library friends had gathered to wish her happiness in her coming marriage to Roger B. Hunt of Cambridge. The wedding will take place on June 19. Miss Lane was presented with a corsage and a mix master.

IN MEMORIAM

Marion H. Shumway

Marion H. Shumway, who was for many years an Assistant in the Director's Office, died on May 14, 1954. Miss Shumway entered the Library service in May 1895 when the Central Library on Copley Square was newly opened to the public. She retired on August 31, 1939. She came to the Director's Office in 1906 and there took charge of assembling the statistical compilations of the Library, served as custodian of the general correspondence files, and kept employee time records. Miss Shumway was widely acquainted with the staff and was particularly known to branch librarians and those in charge of other circulating units for the firm but gentle hand with which she presided over the monthly reports they rendered.

Monsignor Robert H. Lord

With a deep sense of loss we record the death of our former Trustee Msgr. Robert H. Lord, on May 22. A man of many talents, known locally and internationally, Msgr. Lord remained withal a modest man, a man who did not seek to impress his personality upon those of us who knew him.

Msgr. Lord was a man who had a varied career. He was a professor of history at Harvard University, and while in that capacity he was called upon to act as a trusted advisor to President Wilson at the Paris Conference after World War I. Later, he became a priest of the Catholic Church, where he was called upon to utilize his great gift of scholarship in her service. His outstanding contribution during this period was his History of the Archdiocese of Boston. In recognition of his work as a teacher and historian he was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library by Mayor Maurice J. Tobin in 1936. He served the Library earnestly and well until in 1952 he tendered his resignation because of ill-health and pressure of Church duties.

Msgr. Lord's death is a loss to the Library, the Church, and the community.

SPORTS NEWS

In tune, as always, with the year-round sports activity program, the Library is featuring softball as its current athletic endeavor. The official opening took place in the early part of May on Boston Common, and enthusiasm has been strong ever since.

Summing up the individual players: Walter Harris has cleared the outfield fence on two occassions; Jerry Hottleman's pitching wing has been, as usual, a great asset; Dave Sheehan and Paul Mulloney have fielded sensationally; Paul Smith, Don Newman and Danny Kelly, all seasoned and reliable veterans, are back for another year in the big time; Art Lindsay and Larry Sindoni jumped to the majors from Slippery Rock in the Class D league and have taken over their regular varsity jobs with their power hitting. Newcomers to the squad include Dave Sheehan, an ex-Army all star, Sam McGrath, a tireless performer, and Mike Barden, a promising bonus player. Also, Paul Smith has shown unusual talent as player-manager in his calling of plays, making decisions and all round good play on the field. The squad has been supplied with a new set of bats and balls to help them get started on the right foot.

Having played and beaten all the major male opposition in the semi-pro circuit around New England, manager Smith feels that his Library "Bombers" are qualified to challenge any girl teams capable of supplying adequate competition. All parties interested should contact manager Paul Smith of Book Purchasing as soon as possible.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Your President read with much interest the editorial in the May issue of The Question Mark concerning sub-professionals in the Association, and feels that much could be done to encourage greater participation of sub-professionals in the affairs of the Association and to assure that the sub-professionals have a more adequate guarantee of representation on the Executive Board and that they have a better chance to present problems peculiar to them and to make recommendations for solutions of these problems.

Your President, therefore, made two recommendations to the Executive Board which after discussion were approved in the following form:

1. That consideration be given to amending the Constitution so that of the two members of the Executive Board elected each year, one will be a sub-professional and one a professional, which would result eventually in at least two members of the Executive Board being sub-professionals.
2. That consideration be given to amending the Constitution to make the Personnel Committee a standing Committee comprised of 9 members of whom 3 will be sub-professionals, and 6 members will be professionals.

These proposals will be submitted to the Constitution Committee so that they may be prepared for submission to the Association as amendments to the By-Laws.

Leonard J. Macmillan has submitted his resignation as chairman of the Constitution Committee. The Executive Board at its June meeting voted to accept his resignation. Mary E. Connor, Brighton, who has expressed her willingness to serve, has been appointed as the Chairman.

The Executive Board has authorized the naming of the following five indi-

viduals (and the alternate for each) to serve, until April 30, 1955, as the bibliothecal employees' half of the appeal panel provided for in the notice issued by the Director on 9 April 1951, Appeal Procedure for Bibliothecal Employees:

Mrs Helen F. Hirson, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services

Alternate: Dorothy K. Becker, Tyler Street

Louisa S. Metcalf, Open Shelf

Alternate: M. Jane Manthorne, Open Shelf

Arthur Mulloney, Statistical

Alternate: William T. Casey, Open Shelf

William R. Lewis, History

Alternate: George E. Earley, General Reference

Ellen Richwagen, North End

Alternate: Elizabeth Tanck, Dorchester

The Executive Board thought that it would be desirable for the entire appeal panel, including the half named by the administration to be published at the same time and have informed the Director to this effect. Up to this writing, we have not learned of the administration's intentions in this regard, but we did not feel that the naming of the bibliothecal staff's half of the appeal panel should be delayed any longer.

At the May business meeting through the error of the President the report of the Membership and Hospitality Committee was not called for. It is on file and the following statistics are quoted from this report for the information of the members:

"As of May 28, 1954 the membership of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association is 455 out of an eligible 489 employees. This number represents 93% of the employees in the bibliothecal services. 21 of the 1953 members have not rejoined so far this year--and of this number 8 are on leave of absence. Since January 1954 we have had an enrollment of 36 new members and a loss of 12 members through resignations and retirements."

The following members of the Association who will be at the American Library Association Conference have agreed to act as the delegates of the BPLPSA to the Staff Organizations Round Table business meeting to be held June 22, at which meeting the delegates will vote for SORT Steering Committee Members:

George E. Earley, General Reference

Esther E. Jalonen, Cataloging and Classification (R. and R. S.)

Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Office of Home Reading and Community Services

Mrs Elizabeth L. Wright, Personnel

Charles L. Higgins, General Reference, Chairman

B. Joseph O'Neil

FOURTH ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Film Council of Greater Boston held its Fourth Annual Film Festival at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel on May 15, 1954. Fifty-one films of the over two hundred submitted had been selected for Festival showing by five Selection Committees--(1) Adult Education, (2) The Arts, (3) Classroom, (4) Religion, (5) Industry--(a) Public Relations and (b) Sales Promotion. Members of the Boston Public Library Film Preview Committee served on the Adult Education Selection Committee.

Among the registrants at the Festival were representatives from a variety of industries, including film producers, film distributors, and dealers in audio-visual equipment; educators from public and parochial schools, other private schools, and colleges; librarians; social service workers; city, state, and national government employees; hospital personnel; program chairmen from women's clubs, parent-teacher associations, and other organizations; clergymen and other religious workers; and representatives from the Fine Arts and Science Museums, as well as from other art groups.

The Festival audience came early and stayed throughout the day. From nine to ten o'clock in the morning guests enjoyed the coffee hour and viewed the audio-visual exhibits. By ten o'clock the screenings were under way. Each viewer rated each film individually on its own merits.

Presiding at the Festival luncheon was Council President, Edward Palmer. Reverend Warren Hunt, Boston Council of Churches, offered the invocation. The speaker was Joseph McKeon, Manager, Film Library, New York and Assistant to the Film Production Manager, General Motors Corporation. Mr McKeon discussed and showed for the first time in New

England the General Motors 3-D 16mm film This Is Progress. This showing was made possible through the Radio Corporation of America. Special glasses were supplied by the Polaroid Corporation of Cambridge. A special Boston Film Council "Pioneer" Award was presented to General Motors through Mr McKeon and to the Producer of the film, Raphael G. Wolff. Milton E. Lord, Director of the Boston Public Library, representing Mayor John B. Hynes, presented to the speaker a handsome brochure which is given to honored guests of the City instead of the keys to the City.

Film sponsors, producers, and directors and Boston Film Council members and friends gathered at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel on June 2, 1954 for the Second Annual Film Council Awards Dinner at which were presented the 1954 award certificates. At least an Award of Merit was given for each film shown in the Festival. Festival Chairman, Alan Lydiard presented the certificates assisted by John D. Brown, Director of Public Celebrations, representing Mayor John B. Hynes.

The guest speaker, Lang S. Thompson, Vice-President of Wilding Productions, Inc., introduced and showed the first commercial 16mm Cinema Scope film produced by Wilding for the Ford Division of the Ford Motor Company. In recognition of this film, a Boston Film Council "Pioneer" Award was presented to the Ford Motor Company and to Wilding Film Productions.

Muriel C. Javelin

BON VOYAGE

Rebecca Millmeister, inveterate world traveller left West End Tuesday, June 1, for a six-weeks' trip which will include Spain, Portugal, and North Africa. In a hurry to get to new sights, she flew from Logan Airport to Portugal, but will take a leisurely boat trip home.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Janice Charney, part-time assistant at West End and June graduate from Girls' High School on receiving two scholarship awards on the basis of scholastic merit and good character. She received the $200 cash award and scroll in the name of the Amy V. Kingston Award from Girls' High School, and a like cash award from Boston University on the basis of her College Entrance Board Exams. West End is very proud of her.

CIVIL DEFENSE

All units of the Library System participated in the nation-wide Officail Air Raid Test which was held on Monday, June 14, at 10 a.m. Successful cooperation by members of the staff and the public was reported. The Information and Counseling Teams were not asked to report for duty during this Test.

BOOK SELECTION COMMITTEES

On Tuesday evening, June 8, the three Book Selection Committees--Adult, Young Adult, and Children's--enjoyed dinner together at the 1775 House, Lexington. Several "alternates" were able to join the group which added considerably to the pleasure of the occasion. With the problems of objectionable passages, duplication, and inadequate budgets safely locked away in the Book Selection Department, the evening proved very restful and refreshing, especially since the weather, so precarious these days, was perfect for at least the few hours of the outing.

HELP CARE NOW

C is for the contributions we eagerly seek
A is for our aid to the ailing and weak
R is for the refugees who need a helping hand
E is for our efforts in every land.

BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM

Do you want to insure that you and your family will have blood in an emergency? Those employees who donate a pint of blood through the City of Boston Employees Blood Donor Program have this insurance for themselves and their families. Get a pledge card from Mrs Wollent in the Library Hospital. The Library will allow you four hours of excused absence to visit the Red Cross Blood Donor Center on Dartmouth Street near Marlborough to make a donation.

SIXTH ANNUAL MARY U. NICHOLS BOOK PRIZE AWARDS

For six consecutive years now there have been awarded the Mary U. Nichols Book Prize Awards on an evening in early June, at North End. These occasions have led to the development of a most successful Open House for that community. On Thursday evening, the third, Milton E. Lord, Director, presented the 1954 awards to Dolores Intraversato and Anthony Termini, students from the local high schools who in their senior year excelled in their English studies. Each had chosen THE HOLY BIBLE (Duoay Version). These volumes had been handsomely bound in the Library's Binding Department and bore copies of a bookplate especially designed by Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints.

A standing vote of thanks goes to the guest speakers and artists for an evening of excellent entertainment which followed the presentation, under the expert guidance of John A. Scanga, the program chairman. Patrick F. McDonald, President of the Board of Trustees, spoke with enthusiasm of the functions of the library. Some inspiring highlights on the life of Amerigo Vespucci were recounted by Dr Gino Merluzzi, whose radio program has won him warm friends. The block flute (or recorder) music with harpsichord and percussion, performed by The Boston Recorder Consort under the direction of Elna Sherman, was a new and enjoyable experience.

A great many Boston Public Library personnel as well as a grand group of North End friends were welcomed, including Ellen C. Peterson, Gracemarie Alfe, Dorothy Becker, Tyyne Saari and Gilda Tecce, all former staff members. Assisting the library staff as hostesses were several community leaders and some members of the North End Young Adults Library Council.

Indeed, the major social event of the year at North End was a decided success and it can truly be said that "a good time was had by all"!

FOURTH ANNUAL BERTHA V. HARTZELL MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Hartzell Memorial Lecture was given on the evening of June 11. The lecturer was Dr Sidney Butler Smith, Director of the University of Vermont Libraries, and President of the New England Library Association. Dr Smith chose as his subject The Librarian and the Staff, a Cooperative Team.

Gathered in the Wiggin Gallery to hear the lecture were approximately seventy Association members and friends. Dr Smith gave an informative and spirited talk on staff relations, a subject of keen interest to his audience. Among the friends were Sigrid Edge and Ruth Leonard of Simmons College Library School.

President O'Neil opened the occasion with a short speech of welcome, followed by an introductory speech delivered by the Committee Chairman, May C. McDonald. Miss McDonald, as a former Training class member, paid tribute verbally to Mrs Hartzell as a teacher; the printed program contained a tribute from Alice M. Jordan, Supervisor of Work with Children, Emeritus, a friend of and fellow teacher with Mrs Hartzell in the Training Class days.

Refreshments were served during the social hour which followed the lecture.

The Committee hopes to publish the lecture in the near future.

EXPANDING HORIZONS

During the months of March, April, and May the Boston Public Library, with the co-operation of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, conducted a ten-session training institute for community leaders in the background and techniques of inter-group education. A group of some fifty individuals from Boston organizations served as members of the Sponsoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr Kenneth Benne, Director of the Human Relations Center at Boston University who also served as Chairman of the Institute Steering Committee. The members of the Sponsoring Committee suggested organizations which might be invited to send participants to the Institute, interviewed these participants prior to the Institute, and assisted in the preparation of an extensive pamphlet list on Intergroup Relations. Dr Trawick Stubbs of Harvard University was the Training Leader of the Institute, and Dr Robert Chin and Stephen Kegeles of Boston University were Evaluation Consultants. Other Consultants were called in from time to time during the Institute.

Members assisted in conducting the sessions at which new techniques in leadership were projected. Special reading lists were prepared by the Readers Advisor for Adults at the Boston Public Library.

On May 24, some sixty members of the Institute and Sponsoring Committee held a dinner meeting at the Boston University Faculty Club. The dinner was followed by a unique and informal presentation of the Institute's organization, accomplishments, and future usefulness. Dr Benne, as Chairman of the evening, introduced the program. Among the participants were Dr Louis Radelet, Director, Commission on Community Organizations, The National Conference of Christians and Jews, Inc., and Mrs Grace Stevenson, Associate Executive Secretary of the American Library Association.

The Institute, made possible through a grant from the American Library Association Fund for Adult Education, is to be fully evaluated and completely reported at a later date.

Muriel C. Javelin

SOMEWHERE IN THE LIBRARY . . .

18. Among the several busts in Bates Hall, two are of famous American women. One of these two busts represents a woman well-known for her activities in the cause of woman suffrage. It is said of this woman that she retained her maiden name, even though she was married, as an indication she had not lost her individuality by her marriage. Who was this woman? Her marriage name was Mrs Henry Brown Blackwell.

19. According to Shakespearian authorities, there exist only two unquestionably authentic likenesses of Shakespeare. One of these is the bust in Holy Trinity Church at Stratford-on-Avon. A cast of the face of this bust was made for Thomas P. Barton, whose excellent Shakespeare library this Library now owns. When the Library obtained the Barton collection in 1873, it also obtained this cast. Where in the Library can one see this important likeness of the great poet?

20. George B. Chase, a trustee of this Library from 1876-1885, presented to the Library some years ago a carved teak table with a marble top. This attractive ornate table has recently been moved to a prominent place in the Central Library building. Can you locate the table?

21. There is in Bates Hall a bust of a man who has been described as "a prominent member of the literary coterie which made Boston famous in the middle of the nineteenth century". His sister married the famous poet Longfellow after the death of the poet's first wife. He gave to the Library in 1869 the Cardinal Tosti collection of engravings, now housed in the Wiggin Print Gallery. Who is this gentleman?

Answers to May questions

14. Mr Smith did the art work for the area known as the Venetian Lobby, at the entrance to the Teachers Dept.

15. Mr Garnsey was the artist for the area known as the Pompeian Lobby, at the entrance to the Abbey Room. He also did the paintings on the walls of the corridors on the first floor, extending from the Entrance Hall.

16. Viewed from the second floor corridor the representations of the Iliad and the Odyssey are in the first Chavannes panel from the right in the panel devoted to Epic Poetry.

17. The wall of the second floor corridor containing the main entrance to Bates Hall has the Chavannes painting of the nine muses, who in Greek mythology are considered to be the daughters of Jupiter and Mnemosyne, and preside over song, the different kinds of poetry, and also the arts and sciences.

Paul V. Moynihan

ARNAVETS--OFFICERS FOR 1954

Commander--Louis N. Rains
Vice-Commander--Samuel Green
Chaplain--Henry F. Barry
Adjutant and Quartermaster--James P. J. Gannon (20th term)
Officer-of-the-day--Charles L. Higgins

ALUMNAE NOTES

Orlando C. Davis, Chief Librarian, Division of Home Reading and Community Services, Emeritus, has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the Medway Public Library, West Medway.

*

Of interest to her many friends in the B.P.L. will be excerpts from a recent letter from Mrs Dorothy Nourse Pitman, Branch Librarian, Emeritus:

Since May first I have been Bookmobile Librarian on the Richmond Regional Traveling Library, commonly and familiarly known as the "Book Wagon". This operates on Staten Island, which is a Borough of New York City just like Manhattan--only very different, since it has many small towns, open stretches of country, and marshes. We have a staff of four, of whom I am the only professional, and on Wednesdays and Fridays we have a Columbia Library School student who works with us. The "Wagon" is a 1949 truck carrying about 900 books and we cover between 200 and 300 miles a week. Most of our stops are at schools, though we have a community stop each day and visit two housing projects as well. We also stop at a factory during the lunch hour.

Most of our circulation is children's and we are doing a land office business. We arrive at a school and are visited in turn by all grades, even the first. With such a small book collection, we depend on the books returned by each grade to supply their pupils which means intense book slipping, shelving, and charging. My job is to stand in the middle selecting books, making substitutions for titles not available, getting the slipped books to the youngsters and speeding the bargain basement in books! As well as liaison officer, I also act as a convenient resting place for many feet--unusually about ten children per foot which is maximum capacity for my large understanding! The children are attractive, responsive, and easy to work with but we have lively times when thirty or more try to get six books apiece.

The staff are young, work well together, and are a fine, capable group. As in Boston on Bookmobiles, we have a wonderful driver who knows books and understands boys and girls. He works as one of the staff--slipping, discharging, charging, and doing registration. Three days each week we lunch in branch staff rooms but on Tuesdays and Thursdays we dine on the wagon. My only innovation is a wash basin, since I could not eat my sandwich with filthy hands--me an ex-Proper Bostonian!

It may be of interest that the New York Public Library, of which I am now a humble member, has a forty-hour, five-day week. Book Wagon has a community stop on Tuesdays and we spend the afternoon and evening there.

Getting to Staten Island is a real trip--one stop on the subway and a twenty-five minute ferry ride but it takes me an hour. An eleven hour day is quite a feat and I can't say I enjoy leaving home at eight and getting back at seven, especially since work on the "wagon" demands much "physical stamina", to quote the job qualifications for the Bronx Bookmobile Librarian which position is now open. (Anyone from Boston want the job?)

Two days a week we are doing about a thousand circulation; our light day on Tuesday is about two hundred; the other days are between five and six hundred. Our total for May was exactly 14,000 which represents much activity (Editor's Note: B.P.L. Bookmobile I in May--17,311; Bookmobile II, 15, 954). Being a part of a regional set-up means we have our own book collection with headquarters at St. George and get circuit books, adult one, for three months. We do quite a bit with interbranch loans and reserves, too. Our charging is by Gaylord machine, which is supplemented by hand charging when necessary. Rules and Regulations seem quite sensible and simple but some routine processes seem more complex than in Boston, while others are more flexible.

The staff at the regional branch are a fine group, quite congenial and very pleasant. I don't feel I know them too well since I spend at most an hour and a half there in the day, for we leave at 9:30 and return between 5 and 6.

Well, life is busy, exciting, and I keep thinking as we bump over the washboardy roads "more bounce to the ounce" and I average a few ounces, though not more than in Boston! Certainly I am flexible and am learning new tricks . . . Oh, yes, New York salaries for branch librarians are about $300 lower than Boston, as well as 5 hours more work per week (Grumblers in Boston, if any, please note!). After two large ninety foot reading rooms, a lecture hall, office and sub-basement, my new quarters are a bit crowded. Variety and contrast are the spice of life!

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

Bowles, Chester. Ambassador's report.
New York, Harper, 1954
Del Villar, Mary. Where the strange roads go down
New York, Macmillan, 1953
Hunt, Sir John. The conquest of Everest.
New York, Dutton, 1954
Kimbrough, Emily. Forty plus and fancy free.
New York, Harper, 1954
Leavitt, Robert K. The chip on grandma's shoulder.
Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1954
McKenney, Ruth. Far, far from home.
New York, Harper, 1954
Montagu, Hon. Even. The man who never was.
Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1954
White, Theodore H. Fire in the ashes.
New York, Sloane, 1953

Fiction

Asch, Shalom. A passage in the night.
New York, Putnam, 1953
Dodson, Kenneth. Away all boats.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1954
Flood, Charles B. Love is a bridge.
Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, 1953
Forbes, Esther. Rainbow on the road.
Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, 1954
Janney, Russell. So long as love remembers.
New York, Hermitage House, 1953
Michener, James G. Sayonara.
New York, Random House, 1954
Monsarrat, Nicholas. The story of Esther Costello.
New York, Knopf, 1953
Shellabarger, Samuel. Lord Vanity.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1953

BRANCH NOTES

Connolly

The Friends of the Connolly Branch Library held its final meeting of the season on Monday evening, May 24. The guest speaker was Phil Engel, Public Relations manager of Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation. Drawing upon his vast experiences in the motion picture industry, he delighted the audience with many fascinating stories and inside information on the many types of publicity used for various films. A lively question and answer period followed. A social hour brought to a close one of the most interesting meetings enjoyed by the Friends group.

*

Spring Book Festival was celebrated with three scenes from Alice in Wonderland--the Mad tea party, the Lobster quadrille, and Alice's evidence. The success of the play was heightened by the costuming. The Girls' Club of Manchester, New Hampshire, kindly lent several costumes. Others were designed and made by Gertrude Kornmuller, extra assistant at Connolly.

In many ways, the play was a branch enterprize. The actresses were members of the Betweeners, a club of fifth and sixth grade girls. The announcers and the electrician were Boys' Club members. Each Young Adult clubber, ready with stories and songs, took charge of a group of early audience arrivals.

The play was the gala event of the season. Four hundred fifty junior socialites of Jamaica Plain attended the two performances.

Phillips Brooks

On Thursday evening, May 20, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Open House was held, in observance of the 23rd anniversary. The Friends of the Library, sponsors of the program, presented Robert Davidson, Chief Planner of the City Planning Board, whose topic was The Changing Face of Boston. This illustrated talk covered such developments and proposals as the Central Artery, neighborhood rehabilitation, and the Back Bay Civic Center.

The winners of the "Do-It-Yourself" Craft and Hobby Exhibit were announced, and subscriptions to hobby and interior decorating magazines were presented to them.

The evening closed with refreshments and a social hour, with an opportunity to admire the many various crafts, and to chat with neighbors. Mr Davidson was available for further questioning, by an audience which had displayed keen interest in his talk.

West End

The Children's Spring Book Club, which had been under way at West End Branch

since March, held its closing exercises during the week of the Spring Book Festival. As a special project, the children undertook to conduct an election at which they would select the books they thought should receive the Spring awards and honors. Candidates were nominated by workshop groups, discussed in "buzz sessions," finally voted for during Election Week, and results were announced at the party on May 22nd. Their top honors went to HALD MAGIC and THE TIN FIDDLE, while the critics' choice, ALPHONSE, was only in sixth place. At the closing program, reading certificates and book prizes were awarded, and the children's guest author was Miss Mary Walsh, who has written several distinguished Irish stories for children.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate the the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

(Editor's Notee: The following is a condensation to 300 words of a letter sent to the President with the request that it be read at the business meeting. Since this was not done, it is being printed here.)

To the Soap Box Editor:

Since the future welfare of the Association is in jeopardy due to the methods used by the Executive Board in cancelling the original 1954 Bertha V. Hartzell Lecture, we the undersigned past presidents take exception to their action on the following grounds:

1. The precedent of giving recognition only to recommendations made in writing and signed by the complainant or otherwise clearly identified as to source, was ignored. The independence of the Association lies in adhering to this practice.

2. The contention that the speaker's talk was not on a "professional library subject" is not valid since it is a matter of interpretation. Could not the Board have consulted the original Memorial Lecture Committee along with the 1954 Committee and thus have rendered a verdict arrived at by a wider representation of the Association--or better still called a special meeting or conducted a poll.

3. Granted the assumption that the question of constitutionality were valid, did not the Association have an obligation to its Committee, to the speaker, to the Hartzell family and to the membership which transcended a technical interpretation which apparently up to the time of the complaint had posed no problem to any member of the Executive Board?

To safeguard the future we ask that the following points be discussed at the Business Meeting:

(1) the possibility of amending the constitution to stipulate that all recommendations be sent in writing over the signature of a member of the Association;

(2) the desirability of calling a special meeting of the Association or conducting a poll of the membership whenever there is doubt regarding a course of action to be followed;

(3) the original Hartzell Committee clarify its intent in establishing the lectureship.

(4) the recommendations of past Hartzell Committees to appoint the Committee in the fall of each year, be acted upon.

Louisa S. Metcalf
Edna G. Peck
Pauline A. Walker

To the Editor:

What, if anything, came out of the Staff Association meeting at which the cancellation of the first Hartzell Memorial Lecture was discussed? Although I was unable to attend the meeting, the reports I receive clear up none of my confusion. None of the reports seem to be adequate.

Several of us on the staff have taken a course at Simmons College titled, Sources and Media of Mass Communication, in which journals, journalists, and what journalists write are considered. At the time I took the course, Simmons felt it important enough to require it of all candidates for a degree in library science. This would seem to indicate that the subject of the first lecture could be considered a professional library subject.

Among the questions left unanswered are these: On what grounds did the Executive committee decide that the subject of the lecture was not a professional library subject and on what does it base its right to be sole interpreter of the provisions of the lecture? Should not these provisions be made more definite in the future? Why did the cancellation of the lecture come so late? The executive committee must have been aware for some time of the lecturer and the type of lecture he would be apt to give.

There is much speculation and unhealthy rumor going around concerning this affair, which makes it appear that the whole truth of the matter has not come before the Staff Association membership. The time has come for some definite statements from those who know what is going on. This would get several people off the hook as well as bring renewed faith in the Staff Association as a healthy body to which one would be proud to be connected.

Francis R. Currie

Dear Editor:

At the business meeting of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association on Friday, May 28, it was very noticeable that there was a great lack of knowledge of the principles of Parliamentary Procedure on the part of the majority of the members (myself included) who were at this meeting. Now because most members of an organization are not acquainted with the fine technicalities of Parliamentary Law, I should like to recommend that a member of the Executive Board of the B.P.L.P.S.A., who is an expert parliamentarian, be assigned to the B.P.L.P.S.A. meetings in order to advise a member when necessary as to the proper method of procedure when the member wishes to exercise and protect both his individual and joint rights.

Grace B. Loughlin

To the "Soap Box"

Mr Joseph O'Neil was elected president of the B.P.L. Professional Staff Association by a high percentage of the votes. I believe we should support him in his efforts to run the association according to the constitution of the association.

Many of us remember when no organization in the library was considered representative because it did not have a majority of employees as members. It's about time we supported those we elect to represent us. Criticism is to be expected, provided it is constructive criticism.

Sincerely,

Common Sense

To the Editor:

The old prizefight cry WE WAS ROBBED has taken a new twist if we can believe our ears when listening to the post-May 28 meeting talk. If this cry came from the subprofessionals there might be some reason to listen to it. But it issues forth from the lips of experienced members of the staff. In fact more than one of the past presidents of the association, who must have had some experience with Roberts Rules of Order in order to conduct a meeting, do not hesitate to cry out in mournful tones.

The cry ROBBED BY ROBERTS sounds a little naive. Let's forget a very distasteful experience and get on with our work.

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

We have had reason for pride in our Professional Staff Association. Formerly, as its founders intended, it has given members a chance to voice opinions, interests and needs regarding matters pertinent to their professional welfare. Past officers have sponsored action to further and protect these interests. They have exhibited the courage needed to withstand outside pressures whether these originated from non-members within the Library or from subversive or superpatriotic groups outside our walls. But this Association may cease to be an independent, representative body unless we meet the grave, increasingly apparent danger inherent in the growing apathy on the part of many members.

Responsibility to an organization does not end with payment of dues. To make their wishes known, members must attend meetings. They must study parliamentary rules of procedure so that well-informed, vocal groups within the organization cannot misuse these rules to usurp total control. And, obviously, each member must become aware of action pending or effected by his elected officers so that he can express approval or disapproval of steps taken in his interests.

Democratic organizations depend on two equally important principles: rule of the majority and the right of minorities to be heard. At our last meeting, serious differences of opinion became obvious regarding recent Executive Board action. Such differences can be settled amicably only if each side can freely express its views. If we allow some members to silence others, with whom they disagree, by imperious demands for adjournment, each of us should remember that in the next discussion we may find ourselves in the minority silenced without a hearing.

Our Staff Association was created to serve us all. Let us keep that Association vital, productive and genuinely representative by becoming alert to dangers which spring up to threaten its existence and its integrity.

To the Soap Box Editor:

Come now. Let us calm down. There is no sense in becoming so emotional that it in some cases borders on hysteria. When people use terms, generalities, and innuendos not at all applicable to a situation at hand, they are not acting as professional persons. I am not referring to nor am I against calling a spade a spade when it is a spade. However, the current name calling and innuendo in certain areas is unreasonable. True, the Executive Board made a mistake in not notifying the Hartzell Committee much earlier that the Constitution must be strictly interpreted. I agree it is unfortunate to withdraw an invitation to a speaker. From what I have gathered that seemingly was accomplished without rancor as far as the speaker was concerned. However, if action had not been taken this lecture would have set a precedent for the future contrary to the Constitution of the Association.

The Executive Board, which has many duties to perform has admitted its error, yet the Committee for the Hartzell Memorial Lecture which was directly concerned with this matter, has failed to acknowledge the fact that they acted contrary to the specific provision of the Constitution governing their authority, which provision stated explicitly that the lecture was to be on a professional library subject.

M. F. Daly

Just in case--

P.S. I was not one of the members of the association originally requesting a reexamination of the lecture subject.

Dear Editor:

Reflecting on the cancellation of the Hartzell lecture, certain facts bear emphasizing. A letter dated 23 March 1954 from the Chairman of the Hartzell Memorial Lecture Committee to the President of the BPLPSA listed speakers under consideration, none of them professional librarians, and disclosed that the Committee considered a broader interpretation of "the professional library subject". The President rasied no objection, although invited to make recommendations, nor did any member of the Executive Board when the letter was read to them at a meeting on 12 April 1954. Yet when a member of the staff, hiding behind anonymity, objected on the pretense that the proposed lecture was not on a professional library subject, the Executive Board voted to cancel the proposed lecture. If the staff member who raised the objection was sincere in his or her effort to safeguard the constitution of the association, why all the secrecy? Certainly nobody should be ashamed of

having instigated this action if the motive was honorable.

Geraldine M. Altman

To the Editor:

95 or Goose-egg?

Taking one's own measure is an interesting thing to do. Frequently we test ourselves on quizzes appearing in magazines. Sometimes we're a bit smug over our scores. Other times we feel distinctly foolish. Now, just for YOUR OWN SAKE, check yourselves on these, will you, and see how you rate? The score is your secret--but be honest!

1) Did you go to the May Staff Association meeting prepared with Robert's Rules?
2) Did you ask the question troubling you or were you a seat-sitter?
3) Did you make it your business to know if any questions or motions were lost in limbo?
4) If well-versed in parliamentary procedure, did you lend your assistance to the Association as a whole, or just to your buddies?
5) Did you request information from the chair as to when certain questions would be in order?
6) Have you checked the purposes of organization of the Staff Association?
7) Did you help anyone solve problems?
8) Did you hinder anyone?
9) That was your meeting. Did you let it fall on a few?
10) Do you know the only things that will preserve a Staff Association?
11) If an executive member, did you fulfill your obligation by offering opportunity for all possible clarification of controversial issues?
12) Did you do your own thinking?
13) Did you take notes or did you leave it all to the secretary? That was almost court-recorder pace, you know!
14) Was your regard for truth as strong as your personal opinions?
15) Are you clear on each issue?
16) If not, are you an intelligent member?
17) Have you made the dangerous mistake of underestimating the intelligence of the membership and the public?
18) Do you want your association meetings to be a battlefield for warring factions or sessions packed with stimulating interest?

How did you rate?

As a SOUND MEMBER /____/

As a LIABILITY /____/

Lucia S. Faulkner

To the Editor:

I should like to commend May C. McDonald and the members of the Fourth Annual Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Lecture Committee for their arrangements for a pleasant and constructive program on the evening of June 11. The spirit behind their efforts was reflected by the audience, and I am sure that all who were there felt as I did, that Mrs Hartzell was truly remembered and honored. A fine teacher, a conscientious librarian, and a gracious lady, Bertha V. Hartzell would have been grieved and shocked by any altercation in connection with a library program, most of all, one in her memory. Let us not lose sight of the original purpose of the lectures.

Elinor Day Conley

(Editor's Note: The following letters were referred to the Executive Board for consideration, according to the Publications Committee policy concerning material of controversial nature. The Executive Board answers questions put in these letters, but does not deal with matters expressing personal opinions.)

To the Editor:

HELP WANTED!!!!!!!

What's going on? What's it all about? Does anyone know the facts?

I have heard so many conflicting ideas, begarbled versions and ugly rumors, of the nastiest species, regarding the ill-fated Hartzell Lecture scheduled in May that frankly I am confused, befuddled and bemuddled. I wanted very much to attend the last business meeting to find out for myself, but someone had to hold the fort, and that someone happened to be me. The verbal reports of the meeting were as varied as the persons who attended and reflected all shades of opinion. BUT WHAT ARE THE FACTS? Dunno. Nor did the

mimeographed report of the meeting shed any enlightenment. I still can not figure out what, if anything, was accomplished at the meeting, except an entanglement in parliamentary protocol in which the letter of the law sought to stifle the lively spirits seeking to exercise their rights to be heard. I thought ours was a democratic society! WHAT DID HAPPEN? Dunno.

However, methinks, the members of our executive committee should be chided severely on several scores:

(1) Are they so indifferent to committee reports that they accept first and then take several months to stir from their lethargy before examining their actions? Shame!

(2) Is it nice to invite anyone, let alone someone of the stature of the originally scheduled speaker, and then at the last moment withdraw one's hospitality? Shame!

(3) I spent a miserable hot summer at library school studying MEDIA OF MASS COMMUNICATION, in which we learned about the press, its responsibility in news reporting, and its relation to the Library. If a professional library school sees fit to include material of such nature in a professional library course, who are we, meaning our staff association, to impose a narrow, outmoded definition of the word "professional" on our library activities?

FEMUDDLED

To the Editor:

We suggest that "Femuddled" read the statement of 17 May 1954 sent to Association members giving notice of the cancellation of the Hartzell Lecture

1. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of this statement point out a. that the notes of the first meeting of the former Hartzell Lecture Committee indicated that although the Committee had discussed a broader interpretation of "professional library subject", they reached no decision and were to discuss this matter at a later meeting. b. It was not apparent until the flyer, setting forth the title of the proposed lecture, had been distributed through the Library, that the Committee had decided on a broader interpretation of "professional library subject".

2. No; it is always painful to withdraw an invitation extended to anyone. The Executive Board apologized to the speaker for doing so; the invited speaker, in answer, graciously stated that there was no need for apologies and that he welcomed his release because of his other commitments.

3. The first three Hartzell Memorial Lecture Committees followed a strict interpretation of "professional library subject", and the former Hartzell Lecture Committee was aware of this. If any member of the Association believes there should be a wider choice of subject, it is his or her privilege to propose an amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws, modifying the term "professional library subject", as it appears in the duties of the Committee.

The Executive Board

To the Soap Box Editor:

Since Mr Roberts took over the recent business meeting of the Association, there were many questions which members desired to raise and have answered which were not "in order." Therefore, I would like to ask, and have answered, through the medium of The Question Mark, the following queries:

1. Are the officers elected to carry out the will of the membership--or to impose their will on the membership, as happened in the cancellation of the original 1954 Hartzell Lecture? The Constitution states--as part of the "duties of the Executive Board"--"to consider all matters affecting the common interests and welfare of the Association, and to recommend to the Association such action as the Board deems wise."--italics mine--to recommend--not to act.

2. If interpretation of the constitution--Hartzell lecture clause--were the cause, why was the original Hartzell Committee not consulted?

3. Did not common courtesy require that the 1954 Hartzell Committee which had every detail of the lecture planned be consulted, rather than be issued an ultimatum?

4. A special meeting was requested. Why was this request ignored?

5. A poll was requested. Why was this request ignored?

(*"There was not sufficient time", is an excuse, not a reason.)

6. If a columnist reports on a controversial subject, and two local papers disagree with that report, is this unusual? It happens every day in a democratic society and should happen.

7. Why did the Executive Board feel that this incident, the suspected reason for cancelling the lecture, had to be hushed up and the constitution theory put forward as a camouflage?

8. Was not the Executive Board's fear of facing the issue, the only real danger in the entire situation?

9. Is the Association going to be an independent organization or is it going to jump through the hoop every time someone (suspected but unknown) lashes the whip?

Edna G. Peck

To the Editor:

1. The officers are elected to carry out the will of the membership, as the membership has expressed its will in the Constitution and By-Laws and not in a manner contrary to the Constitution and By-Laws. Article 2 (b) of the By-Laws, as part of the duties of the Executive Board, has been in the Constitution since the beginning of the Association. Yet from the very first year of the Association the Executive Board has taken action for the Association between meetings of the membership and has not restricted its activities to merely making recommendations to the Association. Nor does the present Executive Board believe that the Association would have been able to function effectively throughout the life of the Association, if the Executive Board could only recommend action and could not act itself. Any former President should be aware that this is the policy that has always been followed.

2. The Executive Board considered the language of the By-Laws, "professional library subject", to be very clear and in no need of interpretation.

3. The Executive Board has already apologized to the former Committee publicly for not giving earlier notification.

4. The request for a special meeting made on late Friday afternoon of May 14th was not ignored. It was given every consideration. The President had been instructed to carry out arrangements for cancellation if the Committee resigned. Any special meeting called would have been held after cancellation arrangements had been initiated. The statement issued May 17th was intended to give the membership notice of the Executive Board's action and the reasons for its action.

B. Joseph O'Neil
for the Executive Board

To the Editor:

5. The result of a poll could not make an unconstitutional act constitutional.

6. No. If a columnist reports on a controversial subject and two local papers disagree with that report, it is not at all unusual.

7. The Executive Board takes this opportunity to state once again that the only reason for cancelling or postponing the Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Lecture which was considered or discussed by the Executive Board was that the announced subject was not in accord with the Constitution.

8. The Executive Board faced the issue, the constitutionality of the announced subject, and voted unanimously to take action on can-

cellation and postponement. A week and a half later the full Board unanimously reaffirmed the stand it had taken previously so that there would not be the least shadow of a doubt as to its postion.

9. As long as the present Executive Board is in office they will do all in their power to insure that the Association will remain independent. The average age and girth of the members of the Executive Board preclude jumping through hoops for anyone.

Louis Rains,
for the Executive Board

To the Soap Box Editor:

We wish to thank the many friends who joined in helping us honor Mrs Bertha V. Hartzell. To further honor her memory the Committee is assuming the expenses of the Fourth Hartzell Memorial Lecture.

Geraldine T. Beck
Charles J. Gillis
Irene J. Wadsworth
May C. McDonald, Chairman
FOURTH HARTZELL MEMORIAL
LECTURE COMMITTEE

LATE FLASH!

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Margaret Mahoney, Information Office, to John Morrison of Cambridge.

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

JULY 1954

THE QUESTION MARK

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Publications Committee: Gerald L. Ball, John J. McCafferty, Sheila W. Pierce, Sarah M. Usher, Charles J. Gillis, Chairman

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The fifteenth of each month

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The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

There appeared some years ago a British publication with the engaging title Chamber of Horrors. Upon inspection this little book proved to be a "glossary of official jargon, British and American". The compiler using the pseudonym "Vigilans", alarmed at the "fungoid" growth of this language phenomenon, and determined to check in some way the spread of these weeds, has brought together some of the more absurd specimens of this strange tongue, together with translations into standard English. (Ex. "institute the necessary inquiries" for ask.) In the introduction, incidentally, the reader is treated to an excerpt from Federal Prose. How to write in and/or for Washington.. (Univ. of N.C. Press, 1948) which defines official jargon as follows: that form of nonmetrical composition, apparently English, which can be invariably interpreted as meaning and/or not meaning more and/or less than, rather than what, it seems to mean.

We librarians ourselves have, over the years, been guilty of a similar jargonistic approach in saying and writing things. Our sin has lain in our characteristic use of what one might call Library prose, perhaps best described as "genteel long-windedness." We have so long been used to such expressions as delightful collation when we mean lunch; individual when we mean person and charming abode when we mean somebody's house, that a disturbing attitude has crept into the profession's word-choice, a conviction that two syllables, like two heads, are better than one. We have been pursuing this sesquipedalian path so unswervingly, in fact, that Vigilans (see above) might tremble lest we banish directness forever from the Library profession in favor of the oblique. It would seem that the inevitable and regrettable consequence of this behavior, unless we return to the pristine unequivocalness of elemental man, must be a gradual clouding over of everything we try to say or write to a point of complete confusion.

Taking A as crystal-clear atop the scale of intelligibility, and making Z utter chaos at its lower end, (and bearing in mind man's inability (1) to make himself completely understandable and (2) to completely understand others) we must admit that most human communication staggers along at about G or H on that scale.

This unhappy condition is almost as good as semanticists say we poor humans can achieve. (Semanticists are professional head-shakers over language difficulties.) Their somewhat too great insistence on complete mutual understanding as the one true basis of peaceful and fruitful relationships, and their parallel conviction that any degree of this understanding will occasion a like degree of friction is too neat an explanation and offers too easy a solution of the world's ills. However, they may well be entirely wrong. Perhaps Library language, once simplified, will help simplify Library procedures.

John McCafferty

PERSONAL NOTES

Resignations

Mrs Grace H. Gonzalez, General Reference, to remain at home in Guatemala City, Guatemala, C.A.

Transfers

Mrs Elizabeth B. Svirsky, from Parker Hill to Central Charging Records.

Returned from Military Leave

Lawrence R. Bushey, Fine Arts

CARE

Remember to CARE during the Summer.

WEDDINGS

St Ignatius Church, Chestnut Hill, July 10, was the scene of the Nuptial Mass at which Constance E. Wilson, Book Stack Service, and Paul J. Delahanty, Central Charging Records, were married. The bride wore a full length gown of off-white silk organza over bridal satin with an insertion of Alencon lace at the bodice and a seed pearl crown with an illusion veil. Her maid-of-honor, Jeanne Daly, wore white embroidered eyelet organdy over blue taffeta; Loretta Ann Delahanty was gowned in pale blue tulle. The bride's bouquet was of white roses and stephanotis with a center of pink sweetheart roses. The Mass was celebrated by Father Leonard of Boston College while the best man was George Hickey of Dorchester. The reception, which followed immediately, was held at the home of the groom's parents in West Roxbury.

*

On Saturday afternoon, June 19, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Janice G. Lane of the Office of Home Reading and Community Services, became the bride of Roger B. Hunt. Following a honeymoon in Upper New York State and the Gaspé, Mr and Mrs Hunt will live in Cambridge.

*

Margaret Macdonald, Director's Office, was married in Boston on July 1 to José de Rivas-Micoud. The couple will live in New York City.

*

On Saturday morning, June 19, Helen G. Pappas, Information, was married to Arthur J. F. Sullivan, of Corning, New York, at a double wedding ceremony at St Patrick's Church in Watertown, Massachusetts. Her sister, Mary Catherine Pappas, was wed to Paul Frazier, of Dorchester, at the same time.

Helen looked exquisite in a white mousseline de soie over satin gown decorated with seed pearls placed in the hearts of the little flowers in the lace inserts at the waist and bodice. Her chapel length train was cleverly designed to allow her to gather it up for the reception on invisible buttons forming a bustle in the back. Her tiara added a regal air. Each bride carred a prayer-book covered with a triple-headed orchid, with Stephanotis along the satin ribbons.

The brides used the Marion Year colors. Blue for the bridesmaids' gowns and yellow and white accessories to match the gold and white used in decorating the altar.

Their attendants included two members of the Library staff, Mrs Mary F. Scanlon, Central Charging Records, and Helen H. Sevagian, Information Office. They wore turquoise blue gowns with white shoes and gloves. Yellow roses and white carnations formed the coronets worn by the bridesmaids. These flowers were used to cover yellow satin and lace fans which they carried.

*

On Saturday, June 26, Maurice Rahilly, former staff member in General Reference, Periodical and Newspaper, and Audio-Visual, was married to Patricia Kane at St. Matthew's Church, Dorchester. Monsignor Hasenfus, a friend of the bride, performed the ceremony. The couple will live in New York City.

BIRTHS

Martin Waters, Reference Librarian in History, is the happy father of a son, Alan, born in Weymouth on June 26. Alan weighed in at eight pounds. Formerly, Mrs Waters was a member of Cataloging and Classification, Division of R. & R. S.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The Executive Board has been concerned for some time that, if the payments of service anniversary increases were made before the remaining balances due from the April 1, 1953 revision of salary scales had been paid, there would result inequities to a considerable number of persons, in particular, that many seniors in grade would be receiving smaller salaries than some juniors in grade for some nine months, more or less.

The Executive Board has been communicating with the Administration concerning this matter since the first notice on payment of service anniversary increases was issued, and on Wednesday, July 7, the President and Mr Louis Rains of the Executive Board were authorized to meet with

the Director and the Chief Executive Officer to discuss this situation.

After this discussion the following statement was authorized:

"The Director stated that, in addition to the payment of the remaining balances due from the April 1, 1953 revision of salary scales (probably as of October 1, 1954, and, if possible, as of an earlier date in 1954, depending upon the state of the personnel service budget) he would recommend to the Trustees payments for the period of January 1, 1954 to the date of the effective date of the balances due to those individuals for whom inequities of payment had come into being as a result of the granting of anniversary increases earlier in the current fiscal year."

We are pleased to announce that Charles L. Higgins, General Reference, was elected as a member of the Steering Committee of the Staff Organizations Round Table of the American Library Association and will serve for a two-year term. Congratulations, Mr Higgins! The Association is honored by the election of Mr Higgins so soon after Bradford M. Hill, Periodical and Newspaper, had served for two consecutive terms on this important national committee.

B. Joseph O'Neil

LOST AND FOUND

The following item, having been posted on the Central Bulletin Board for over a month without a claimant, has been sent to The Question Mark for wider notice:

Found

Gold bracelet found in the Women's Lavatory, Stack 3. Owner may claim at the Personnel Office.

Personnel Office—6/2/54

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs Evelyn Grosbayne Green

At the suggestion of Mrs Evelyn C. Marden, Bookmobile, who was the official representative of our Association at the funeral services of Mrs Evelyn Grosbayne Green, a donation of ten dollars from the Association in memory of Mrs Green has been sent to "Youth Aliyah", a fund for the care of orphaned children in Israel.

This donation was made in lieu of the flowers usually sent on the death of an active member of the Association because the newspaper death notice requested that a donation be made to charity in lieu of flowers.

Below is a copy of the letter received from the husband of the late Mrs Green:

45 Wallingford Street
Brighton, Massachusett
July 10, 1954

Mr B. Joseph O'Neil, President
Professional Staff Association
Boston Public Library
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Sir,

I have been recently informed of a contribution received by Youth Aliyah from the Professional Staff Association in memory of my beloved wife, Evelyn.

Evelyn had always evinced a keen interest in the work done by Youth Aliyah and the contribution to this organization most fittingly honors her name.

Please convey to the members of the Professional Staff Association my gratitude and sincere thanks for this beautiful tribute to my Evelyn.

Respectfully,
(Signed) Louis Green

SOMEWHERE IN THE LIBRARY . . .

22. Towards the close of the last century, a famous woman poet and essayist worked for nearly two years in the Catalog Room of this Library. When she left the Library, she went to England to study at the Bodleian Library at Oxford. "I came to England not for excitement, not for vogue, but for the velvety feel of the Past under foot, like moss of the forest floor to a barefooted child," she said. Her studies in England were mainly of the seventeenth-century poets. Among her works are: A Little English Gallery; England and Yesterday; Blessed Edmund Campion; Recusant Poets. Can you identify this woman?

23. Another member of the Catalog Department of the Library, who worked here

for many years, until the time of her death during World War II, was also an author, a writer of mysteries. Can you identify this cataloger-authoress?

24. Somewhere in the Library is an original wash drawing entitled "Twentieth Century Boston". The size of the drawing is considerable, 41 x 83½ inches. The artist was Bert Poole; the date on the drawing is 1907. The whole work is a most comprehensive view of Boston and Boston Harbor. The ships in the harbor, the piers, the railroads, the newly-constructed buildings:--all create a picture of Boston at the turn of the century with the newly acquired look of a modern city. Can you locate this drawing?

25. Somewhere in Bates Hall there is a pair of pedestals for the busts of two famous Library benefactors. These pedestals are made of cipolino marble, the marble used in the Temple of Antoninus and Faustina in the Roman Forum, and in the columns of the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome. This marble is no longer obtainable. Can you locate these pedestals?

(Answers to these questions appear on page 9)

Answers to June questions

18. Lucy Stone
19. Rare Book Department
20. In the space formerly occupied by the postcard counter.
21. Thomas Gold Appleton.

Paul V. Moynihan

BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM

The following excerpts are from an editorial by E. Roland Harriman, President of the American National Red Cross, in Today's Health for March 1954.

"Both World War II and Korea have required Americans to donate blood in vast quantities. Response to that need, and the resultant supply of whole blood and blood derivatives has been of great benefit to our wounded and has had a collateral benefit to civilians, through a growing consciousness of the value of blood and the willingness of people to donate it."

..."Increased knowledge and, with it, the mounting need for blood presents a major problem--where to get it. Unlike other medicinals, blood cannot be bought in quantities sufficient to meet needs because not enough people are willing to sell it--at any price. Blood procurement is not solely the responsibility of the medical profession, but also the duty of the average citizen".

..."We must make sure that no soldier or civilian dies for the lack of blood".

"But each healthy citizen must also assume a part of the responsibility because it is only through the enlightened generosity of people in keeping up consistent donations that the program can succeed. The American Medical Association, the Red Cross and hospitals will do their part. All of this will avail little unless each of us who is able makes blood-giving a habit".

Have you made a donation through our own program, the City of Boston Blood Donor Program?

"REMEMBER, THE BLOOD YOU GIVE MAY SAVE SOMEBODY'S LIFE".

BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

George T. Armstrong, Records, Files, Statistics, is recuperating at home, following an operation.

ENGAGEMENT

The engagement of Irene M. McCarty, Adams Street, to Michael J. Shea of Dorchester was announced on July 12. They plan to be married next Spring.

A.L.A. CONFERENCE

Conference theme: "Knowledge A Free People's Surest Strength"

At many of the general meetings of the A.L.A. as a whole and of the several divisions, great stress was put upon the importance of the United Nations as a force for peace and freedom, and upon the role of the United States as a major force in the proper functioning of the U.N. Two men in particular made eloquent and fervent appeals in support of the U.N. Carroll Binder, Editorial Editor of the "Minneapolis Tribune", discussed the attitudes toward participation by the U.S. in world affairs with particular

emphasis on the reasons advanced by those groups opposed to the U.N. Dr Charles Mayo of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, and President of the American Association for the U.N. urged that the coming U.N. Day be appropriately celebrated on the local level throughout the United States.

*

SORT

The Staff Organizations Round Table held a meeting at which five new members were elected to the Steering Committee which is composed of nine members scattered throughout the country. Charles Higgins, Chief of General Reference, had been nominated by the BBLPSA and he was one of the five elected from the fifteen nominees. The election was followed by several reports some of which were somewhat interesting. The chief report and the one which aroused some animation was delivered by the SORT Staff Committee Survey. This survey was conducted among the various member staff organizations. The point was brought out in the survey that ten libraries have a member of the staff organization regularly attending the meetings of the Board of Trustees. This is so in Los Angeles, Minneapolis and Cleveland. This seemed surprising and daring to the representative from St Louis and Dayton, two rather conservative libraries. For example, the Dayton representative could see nothing unusual in the fact that everything which appears in the Dayton staff paper first goes over the Librarian's Desk for his approval. That fact is taken for granted in Dayton. In Minneapolis a member of the staff has "always" sat in on all Trustees' meetings. That fact is taken for granted in Minneapolis. In a great many libraries the Chief Librarian (Director) is a regular member of the staff association, and in others he is invited to attend staff association business meetings. Several short talks by representatives of various staff organizations were made, including one by Mr Higgins in which he summarized the activities and organization of BPLPSA.

Current Issues
In Periodical Indexing

The Reference Librarians' Section of the Association of College and Reference Librarians held a panel discussion on the above topic. The chairman of the Section made some preliminary remarks and then introduced the chairman of the panel. The latter looked around the large ballroom where there were assembled a couple of hundred of us in a horse-shoe and with no warning whatsoever suggested that everyone was going to have a good time this afternoon. He smiled when he said this. This levity took many of the librarians by surprise and some few lost their grimness and determination. A tepid titter swept the room. But it was a temporary lapse. For some one got up and indulged in that delightful ALA custom of "reading a paper". There was good reason to be grim. Luckily the room was air-conditioned. In her paper the lady kept using the word empirical. I do remember that for some reason. Upon the completion of that paper, another paper was read, etc. The panel chairman, incidentally, made no further reference to good times. But enough of this silliness; on to the meat of the meeting. It was concerned with the work of a committee which is undertaking to revise and to re-name the International Index to Periodicals. At the present time this index includes periodicals devoted to the humanities and the sciences. It is intended to drop the sciences (physical) and include only the humanities and the social sciences. However, periodicals in the field of psychology and all periodicals in foreign languages are to be excluded too. This project entails an enormous amount of work; in fact judging by the remarks of some of the speakers one might get the impression that the whole thing is absolutely hopeless. There are so many periodicals, so much duplication in other indexes, so many decisions to make regarding psychological periodicals, so many foreign periodicals, so many borderline periodicals (is this psychology or some other social science?) Absolutely overwhelming. The Wilson Company is represented on the ACRL Committee. I do think that it is fair to assume that the International Index will emerge revised and re-named, despite all difficulties. It was announced that the next index due for revising but not for re-naming is the Industrial Arts Index and for this prodigious task the ACRL is going to work with committees from the Public Libraries Division and from the SLA. The Wilson Company is again to be represented.

Japanese Library School

At a meeting of the ALA Council several reports were read, one of them being a progress report by Robert Gitler on the Japanese Library School which he and several other Americans have set up at Keio University in Tokyo. There are only two Americans on the faculty now and it is expected that in the near future Mr Gitler and his assistant will return to this country leaving the Library School entirely in Japanese hands. Students enter the Library School at the third year college level after a complicated screening of as many as 600 applicants. Each year there are about 50 students in the school. Unfortunately about ten percent of these do not graduate because they contract tuberculosis. For those who do graduate there is no placement problem. The average salary is about $35 per month, this being equal to teachers' pay. The $35 is considered to be a fine salary because the teachers do not make any more. I do not know whether this means that librarians and teachers are thus able to starve on equal terms in Japan or that $35 is a fortune in Japan. Thanks to the ALA and the Rockefeller Foundation the Japanese people will now have home-trained librarians.

George E. Earley

Children's Librarians' Programs

Children's librarians attending the conference found two program meetings of direct importance to them. On Monday morning Mrs Benary-Isbert, author of The Ark and its forthcoming sequel Rowan Farm, spoke in a memorable manner of "The Need for Understanding in our Shrinking World." Her deeply-felt remarks, born from her own experiences through and after the war in Germany, complemented the message given delightfully in her stories of post-war German life. In both she has expressed the need to give children courage to overcome fear, an intimate acquaintance with beauty in art and nature, and the knowledge that no human being has an isolated existence, but a responsibility to adjust to others. The exchange of students who are without prejudice, malice, and fanaticism can help she said. Books, which belong to each of us, will give an understanding of the background of suffering.

Mrs Benary was appropriately followed by Martha King, folklorist known on radio and recordings. In her talk on "Midwest Roots in Folklore and Folksong" she explained her idea of folklore as the way we keep ourselves going, with courage, wisdom, and humor. Her songs of the Minnesota area included ballads of the French Voyageurs, the "Huron Indian Christmas Carol" and a mid-west version of "Barbara Allen."

On Wednesday evening the Division of Libraries for Children and Young People introduced Dr Dora Smith of the University of Minnesota. Her forceful talk, "Books, a Source of Strength for Youth in a Free Land," was a convincing presentation of the importance of the individual, the importance of standards in selection of books, and the need to help young people through reading--through experiences of human greatness, through humor that is both "obstreperous and unconscious," and through help in recognizing tyranny. Dr Smith concluded by saying, "It is wiser to believe than to doubt. This is the strength I believe books can bring youth in a free land."

Virginia Haviland

Serials Round Table

The Serials Round Table met in the Ballroom of the Radisson Hotel on Tuesday, June 22, at 10:00 a.m. Robert A. Elftmann of the Northern State Teachers College Library of Aberdeen, S.D., spoke on "Some Simplified Procedures for Serials Handling in Small Libraries," the first of which was the obvious expedient of cutting down on acquisitions, by being selective in keeping those serials which were actually used and not otherwise available from larger libraries. The second was to prefer consulting the shelves directly rather than list long holdings. The third method was to bind serials even if the file was incomplete, and the fourth was to have certain series broken up and treated as vertical file material.

Henry M. Fuller, Yale University Library, spoke on the International Index under study. Subscribers to this index had been sent questionnaires which indicated that 48% wanted to retain the present title and 36% wished to change it to Liberal Arts Index. If this were done, the scope might be changed, yet kept on a scholarly level, and the great

number of science periodicals, already listed elsewhere—often many times—could be dropped, as might also those in psychology. Subscribers favor inclusion of English language periodicals only. An interim questionnaire has been sent and is to be followed by a third.

Speaking on the Lubetsky proposals for revision of the ALA Code as they relate to serial entries was Elizabeth C. Borden of the University of Pennsylvania Library. The disadvantages which libraries that might adopt Lubetsky's suggestion to enter serials under each different change in entry occurring during its history were mentioned, as also were the difficulties which might result, both in accepting Library of Congress cards and in reference use of the catalog, from adopting Lubetsky's recommendations for geographic and corporate entries, especially for government publications.

Esther E. Jalonen

Division of Libraries For Children and Young People: Association of Young People's Librarians

"Planning For Better Service to Children and Young People" was the theme of the opening membership meeting of the Division on Monday morning. A review of the past year's work, accomplished and in process, was gained through the reports of the chairmen of the committees. Some highlights were:

A booklist to be called "First Choice" is to be published under the chairmanship of Elinor Walker (Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh) which will be of particular use to libraries where there are no young adult workers.

Top of the News, the Division's quarterly publication, is to be expanded and revamped, with Elinor Walker as editor.

Mildred Bachelder will be full time executive secretary of the D.L.C.Y.P. Additional funds granted the Division made possible these last two developments.

The Design and Equipment Committee chairman recommended closer cooperation with architects and head librarians planning renovations or new quarters so that space for the children's and young People's departments may be properly considered in the planning stages.

The common objectives of the Division of Libraries for Children and Young People and the Public Libraries Division have been discussed by representatives of both Divisions with a view to establish better communication, to avoid duplication of activities, and to further cooperation.

The progress achieved by the International Relations Committee through the International Youth Library in Munich; the International exhibit of children's books for UNESCO in Paris; the CARE-UNESCO Children's Book Program, and the list in preparation of American children's books suggested for translation was reported.

The results of a questionnaire to gather information concerning the use of television with children and young people was included in the committee reports. All the libraries which answered had obtained public service time.

The Division President elected for 1954-55 is Alice Louise Lefevre, Director, Department of Librarianship, Western Michigan College of Education.

The Vice President and President Elect: Mrs Natalie Mayo Edwin, San Diego Public Library.

*

The Association of Young People's Librarians elected for Chairman, 1954-55, Dorothy Lawson, Indianapolis Public Library.

The Vice Chairman and Chairman elect: Frances Grim, Cleveland Public Library.

Adapting the Large Library Program to the Smaller Library--Book Selection

A panel discussion on Tuesday brought together representatives from the large libraries--New York and Boston—and the smaller ones--International Falls, Minnesota; Des Moines, Iowa; Pierce County Rural Library District in Tacoma, Washington. The presentations and the questions from the outspoken audience revealed the very wide disparity in services

to young people in this country. Where no staff member is assigned to work with the age group—and the term young people is an elastic one which may cover junior high students—the pages may be the ones to select the books for special shelves with the aid of printed lists day to day. There may or may not be special young adult marking on books. At the other end of the yard stick are to be found libraries with highly trained personnel selecting books by reviewing rather than by remote recommendations. When these selections for young adults are published as is the annual list by the New York Public Library, they are a major help to the smaller libraries. Each community should heed the local tastes and local taboos, it was pointed out, although the basic book selection tools were nonetheless valuable. The exchange, moderated by Xenophon P. Smith, Librarian of the Peoria Public Library, brought to light the strength of the small community library where each young person and his family are known continuously by the librarian, and the advantages of the larger libraries organized to recognize the young adult population and serve them. The librarians who crowded that morning session gained new areas to develop and fresh approaches to try, although the crying need is more funds and additional staff.

American Heritage Project--Young Adults

On Tuesday afternoon, Hannah Hunt, Young Adult Specialist on the A.L.A. American Heritage Project staff for the past two years, gave a full report of the young adults discussion groups "It's Our America" designed to attract young people between the ages of 17 and 25 and who do not attend school. Libraries which have been selected as demonstration areas receive leadership training, financial support up to $200 for books and materials, and close supervision. There are some twenty-two groups now scattered over the United States both within demonstration areas and outside these areas, the latter receiving advice and assistance directly from the Chicago office. For the coming year, applications have been received for "It's Our America" grants from fourteen states; from the six presented for consideration to the Board three, possibly only two, will be selected as decmonstration areas.

A birdseye view of young adult work in the United States was one of Miss Hunt's rewards for her intensive work and extensive travel. She spoke of the pressing needs in small and medium sized libraries, the pride of the librarian in her profession, the dynamic progress despite handicaps, and the tremendous job that is to be done with out-of-school youth. There are to be resolved the problems of which ages to include (whether 17 to 21 or 17 to 25) which department and which staff members shall take on the work, in order to hurdle the question of how to do it. The American Heritage Project is one way to reach the youth. There are other ways used in Detroit and Baltimore. Perhaps all these programs together will be the answer.

Miss Hunt described a study of young people 18 to 30 years old made possible by the Fund for Adult Education which contains advice for program planners. These are some characteristics of young adults: They are non-joiners of organizations, so that the individual approach is necessary. An exception to this is their interest in labor unions which they do join. Young people are concerned with civic affairs but in the usual community they do not participate. The climate of opinion is at present "venomous for young adults under twenty-five" (Justice Douglas). Youth likes the opposition party but they fear being labelled subversive for having divergence of opinion, and fear seals their lips.

Pointers for program planners:

1. Plan with not for young adults
2. Be content with small beginnings, even half of the anticipated number and allow nucleus of six to grow to fifteen by the interest and efforts generated by the original number.
3. Limit the scope.
4. Capitalize on personal interest with less emphasis on duty and more on personal gain.
5. At time of evaluation we must make judgment by things other than statistics, with young adults. The intangibles count. Compromise between the measured and the imagined.
6. Recognize toughness of the job. This age group takes more time, more money, more staff, more techniques, etc., than any other age group.
7. In February, begin plans for next

year.

The American Heritage Project for Young Adults helps "bridge the years between the school years and the more mature years." Apparently informal discussion is still a rare occurrence, a new experience, a new way to contact vocational schools, agencies, community sources. The young people's comments on what they gained and what they found they wanted to read are telling.

Another valuable report was made by Elinor Walker, Chairman of the Booklist Committee, who described a list of first choice books to be compiled for the librarian who wants to build an attractive, valuable collection not of titles young people must read, but only those they have enjoyed. The uses of each book will be conveyed in the annotation, for instance: whether it is especially good for a book talk or to introduce a new field, or another book, etc. Also, the annotation will evaluate the book and will provide a selling sentence.

In the expanded "Top of the News", of which Miss Walker is Editor, the feature Recent Books for Young People will be in the hands of a continuous committee rather than one person.

The Recordings Committee report was followed by the reading and unanimous passage of a revised constitution. The enlarged object of the AYPL is "to develop reading guidance and special service for young people in public libraries and to cooperate with other agencies in the promotion of enterprises affecting the welfare of youth."

The underlined clause was added.

Pauline Winnick

BON VOYAGE!

Virginia Haviland, Reader's Advisor for Children, will fly to Germany on July 31 and will spend five weeks on the Continent and in England and Wales.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Kenneth Barnes, Periodical and Newspaper, whose photographs of The Gaspé are attracting much attention in the Puvis de Chavannes Gallery, where they are on exhibition during July.

To Virginia Haviland, Reader's Advisor for Children, who was elected President of the Children's Library Association for the coming year.

To Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Adults, who was elected Chairman of the A.L.A. Audio-Visual Round Table for the coming year.

To Charles L. Higgins, Chief of General Reference, who was elected a member of the SORT Steering Committee.

THE STAFF IN PRINT

In the July number of the Atlantic Monthly is an article entitled "The First Public Library," by Zoltan Haraszti, Keeper of Rare Books and Editor of Publications.

Answers to SOMEWHERE IN THE LIBRARY

22. Louise Imogene Guiney
23. Gladys E. Locke
24. Periodical Room
25. These are the pedestals that hold the busts of George Ticknor and Joshua Bates; they are placed at the sides of the main doorway in Bates Hall.

HOLIDAY PICNICS

Duxbury Idyll—June 17

Nice people,
Clams au steam -
Sandy hot dogs,
Gourmet's dream.
Beautiful women,
Handsome brutes,
Hordes of children,
All so cute.
Ants in jantzens,
Cloudy skies -
Chilling winds,
Unhappy sighs.
Scrabble boards and
Games of ball;
Strenuous time was
Had by all.
Enough warm cokes
And unused beer
To start a stockpile
For next year.

George Adelman

Nahant—July 4

On Sunday, July 4, a combination Picnic

and Weenie Roast was held at Nahant Beach for members of the staff. Gertrude Barry, Personnel, and Dave Sheehan, Book Stack Service, were co-chairmen of this Holiday outing that was attended by 25 lovers of the beach. When it came time in the evening for the Weenie Roast, the hardy 25 could easily have been mistaken for lobsters because it had been a very sunny day.

The term "Weenie Roast" was used very loosely at this gathering. Nobody remembered to bring a grille and everybody forgot to bring a toasting fork. As a result the galvanized pail that served as an ice chest for the liquid refreshments was put into use as the boiling pot for the hot dogs. Jack Kyle of the Stock Room used all the skill that he acquired as a beachcomber in the South Pacific Islands to spear the cooked frankfurts as they floated near the top of the "Witches Brew". The steaming hot dog was then put into a bun and plastered with relish and mustard to add the professional touch. Danny Kelly, Audio-Visual, had the "Bicarbonate of Soda" concession at the outing and it is rumored that he made enough money to buy a grille that will be used on the next Weenie Roast to be held sometime in August with everybody welcome.

Grantland Ricepatty

JUDAICA--AWARDS AND PRIZES

The West End has had the distinction of featuring many Jewish authors in connection with its Judaica work over the course of the years. On several occasions the Library has shown an almost omniscient sense of picking winners. Many of the authors feted at West End have later become prize winners. We are particularly proud at this time to take part in an honor that has come to two of our West End alumni. On Wednesday night, May 21, in the Buttenweiser Hall of New York, Lexington Avenue YM & YMHA, the Jewish Book Council of America in its annual meeting, honored two sons of Boston.

Harry H. Fein received the Harry Kovner Memorial Award of $100 with a citation for his contribution to English-Jewish poetry. In receiving this award, it is of interest to record here that the date is almost identical with the publication of Mr Fein's first book of poetry exactly twenty years ago. Probably more than anyone else in America, Harry H. Fein has helped to popularize Hebrew poetry among English-speaking people. As scholar, poet, and translator, he possesses the knack of bringing the loftiest concepts of poetic expression down to common understanding. His anthologies of translations from the great Hebrew poets and his many lectures have brought Hebrew poetry close to the hearts of Jews and non-Jews alike.

Mr Fein's first volume of translations from the Hebrew poets was published twenty years ago this month, in 1934. This book A Harvest of Hebrew Verse was greeted with praise and admiration throughout the English-speaking world.

On the occasion of the publication of his Light Through The Mist, he was honored with a "siyum" (reception) by the Boston Public Library and the Rabbinical Association.

We salute Harry H. Fein at this time as poet-author, and congratulate him as a worthy recipient of a distinguished award.

*

Another Jewish author feted on several occasions at West End was the recipient of the Harry and Ethel Daroff Memorial Fiction Award which carries with it a $250 cash prize, and a citation for his latest novel In The Morning Light.

Boston is proud of the fact that Charles Angoff received his early training, impressions, and indoctrination as an American writer with Jewish precepts and ideals, and dedicated to the highest literary standards, in his home city of Boston. Although he has worked within the last few years in New York as editor, journalist author in various media of poetry, essay, criticism, short stories, and novels, we still claim him as our own.

Mr Angoff has already written some sixteen books, each of which can stand on its own, commanding merit awards. His Journey To The Dawn heralded a new note of wholesome and sympathetic character portrayal of the Jewish types, which was a sharp contrast to the escape and distorted patterns so prevalent with Jewish writers in America.

In The Morning Light carries on the story of the Polonsky family, its growth, its integration into the American life and mores, so ably begun in Journey To The Dawn.

We salute Charles Angoff, and are grateful to him for the beauty of Jewish life which he depicts, the warmth and sympathy with which he writes, and we congratulate him with much joy on the winning of this award. The Jewish Book Council of America is to be congratulated on its powers of appraisal in selecting our two Boston authors.

*

Miss Goldstein was a Judge for the National Jewish Bookweek Council of America in the awarding of the Isaac Siegel Memorial Award, valued at $250., in addition to a citation, for the best Jewish Juvenile written and published in English in the United States for 1953. This was Deborah Pessin's The Jewish People, Book Three.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction--Library Science

Brough, Kenneth J. Scholar's workshop; evolving conceptions of library service
Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1953

Danton, Emily M., ed. Pioneering leaders in librarianship.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1953

Larsen, Knud. National bibliographical services, their creation and operation.
Paris, UNESCO, 1953

Opie, Iona A., ed. The Oxford dictionary of nursery rhymes.
Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1952

Shores, Louis. Basic reference sources.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1954

Special Libraries Association. Directory of special libraries.
New York, Special Libraries Association, 1953

Non-Fiction

Adelson, Dorothy. Roughing it on the Rue de la Paix.
New York, Crowell, 1954

Anderson, Jack. McCarthy: the man, the Senator, the "ism". Boston Beacon, 1952

Beahn, John E. A rich young man: Saint Anthony of Padua.
Milwaukee, Bruce Pub. Co., 1953

Brooks, Van Wyck. Scenes and portraits.
New York, Dutton, 1954

Buckley, William F. McCarthy and his enemies.
Chicago, H. Regnery Co., 1954

Burnham, James. The web of subversion
New York, J. Day Co., 1954

Gogarty, Oliver St. J. It isn't the time of year at all.
Garden City, New York, Doubleday, 1954

Kertzer, Morris N. What is a Jew?
Cleveland, World Pub. Co., 1953

Fiction

Barrett, William E. The shadows of the images.
Garden City, New York, Doubleday, 1953

Lee, Edna L. The southerners.
New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1953

Wellman, Paul I. The female.
Garden City, New York, Doubleday, 1953.

DEPARTMENT NOTES

Music

To the surprise of Jacques Renard, violinist, the Boston Public Library came up with a copy of the Ethiopian National Anthem. Mr Renard played it on June 3 at the Sheraton Plaza luncheon tendered by Mayor Hynes to Haile Selassie.

Teachers

On June 12, Charles R. Meehan, Teachers and Helen Hayes were married at a Nuptial Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church in Worcester. After a reception at the Sheraton-Plaza Hotel the bridal couple left for a honeymoon in the White Mountains.

A few days before the wedding the members of the Teachers Department staff tendered Mr Meehan a surprise party and presented him with a clock.

*

Many Boston Public Librarians had the privilege of attending the First Mass and Reception of Father Leonard Francis Glavin, Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, at St. Mark's Church, Dorchester, Sunday, June 27.

Fr Leonard is the son of Nellie McShane and Frank Glavin former members of the B.P.L. staff, and nephew of Elizabeth McShane late Branch Librarian of Washington Village.

A younger brother, James, who worked as an extra in Book Stack Service is also studying for the priesthood in the same orde

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

DEAR ED.

HAD NOT INTENDED SOAP BOX ENTRY THIS MONTH STOP WEATHER TOO HOT STOP HOWEVER UNDERSTAND FROM PAST PRESIDENTS' LETTER ORGANIZATION ABOUT TO FOLD STOP THOUGHT I'D LIKE PARTING SHOT STOP ABOUT ASSOCIATION ** IT IS FABULOUS INVALID STOP IF IT SURVIVED MY RESIGNATION FROM PRESIDENCY IT CAN STAND ANY MINOR CRISIS STOP ABOUT RAISES ** AS DELINQUENT DEBTOR ALWAYS PAY MY OLDEST BILLS FIRST STOP THINK LIBRARY SHOULD DO SAME STOP THEREFORE BELIEVE LAST YEAR'S RAISES SHOULD BE PAID BEFORE ANNIVERSARIES STOP HOWEVER WHOLE RAISE SCHEDULE DID NOT MAKE SENSE ** HAD NEITHER ARITHMETIC NOR GEOMETRIC PROGRESSION STOP CONSEQUENTLY HAS MANY LOOPHOLES E. G. SERVICE RAISES AT END OF FOURTH YEAR INSTEAD OF THIRD YEAR FOR TITULAR POSITIONS AND INADEQUATE COMPENSATION FOR ASSISTANTS-IN-CHARGE STOP TOO HOT TO ARGUE THE MATTER STOP HOW ABOUT MORE HEAT RELIEF AND SPORT SHIRTS STOP HAVE HAPPY VACATION DON'T STOP

EAMON (KEEP IT UNDER 300) MCDONOUGH

National Award to the Boston Public Library

At the A. L. A. Conference in Minneapolis the Boston Public Library was announced as the 1954 winner of the "Letter Award," given annually to one library for outstanding library work representing humanitarian achievement.

The citation:

> "To the Boston Public Library, now completing its first century of public service, for its courageous and continuing defense of freedom of inquiry and freedom to read. Its effective response to the challenge presented by those who would curtail those freedoms has been an inspiration to all the world of books. Its constant vigilance in defending these essential rights is an example for all librarians, library trustees and friends of libraries to follow."

The citation was accompanied by an award of one hundred dollars.

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 1954

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume IX, Number 8 August 1954

Publications Committee: Gerald L. Ball, John J. McCafferty, Sheila W. Pierce
Sarah M. Usher, Charles J. Gillis, Chairman

Publication date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

A current list of theses titles of subjects chosen by candidates studying for advanced degrees in library science came to my attention recently and I was struck with the great improvement over similar compilations in the past which were usually surveys compiled from questions mimeographed and mailed out to hard-working librarians to be checked in catalogs, etc., and from which such startling conclusions were reached as, for instance, that men read more westerns than women, women read more "light love" than men, etc., etc.

True, the list scanned bore such perennials as "History of the Robert F. Kidd Library, Glenville State College, Glenville, West Virginia (which according to the 19th edition of the A.L.A. DIRECTORY--1951, page 646--is located in a town with a population of 1,783, had 20,998 volumes, and a budget of $12,041), and the seemingly-exhausted, technical-process topic entitled "Study of the Functions of the Title Added Entry for Nonfiction Books in the Dictionary Catalog". However, the one that rang a bell was "Transistors, a Bibliography Concerning its Theory, Characteristics, and Application", which was evidently the work of a library assistant in a science and technology division who was smart enough to combine the work of a busy division with the work of compiling a list of books for a project in library science.

Such a combination of work and study immediately suggested that we in the library field might aid the prospective scholar by suggesting fields for study which would answer questions at hand and would at the same time give the degree candidate--hard-pressed for a thesis subject--something to work on. Until a more complete list is compiled, I would suggest that a study be made on the subject of record keeping--just how much can we cut down without seriously hampering our work; some bibliographical studies of Irish literature, Judaica, and New England, for proposed new departments; some studies in library economy to draw the much-needed line between what is true economy and what is false economy by which money saved now may result in greater expenditures at a later date; or how recruitment of personnel in the Boston area may be achieved and compared with that in other areas.

Gerald L. Ball

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 22. All-day outing at Duxbury. All staff members invited. See notice on Staff Bulletin board, and mimeographed invitation dated August 2, 1954.

Personal Notes

Resignations

Thomas J. Nolan, Periodical and Newspaper, to take another position
Mrs Ellen D. Gurney, Book Stack Service, to remain at home
Margaret F. Ambrose, Roslindale
Mrs Flora-Ann Hufmann, Memorial, to live in Washington, D.C.
Mrs Evelyn B. Herboldsheimer, Brighton
Mrs Anne A. Sullivan, Egleston Square, to remain at home
Ruth E. Winn, Tyler Street, to attend Pratt Institute Library School
Rita M. Doherty, Book Preparation, to be married
Ruth M. Stenstreem Cataloging and Classification, R. and R.S., to travel
Cecile A. Ritter, Cataloging and Classification, R. and R.S., to be married
Mrs Rose S. Rosenthal, Book Stack Service, to join her husband at Camp Dix.

Marriages

Marion Siraco, Charlestown, to Frank A. Dubrawski, June 26.

Mary Mehlman, Mattapan, to Richard J. Burns, July 17.

ENGAGEMENTS

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Cecile Ritter, Cataloging and Classification, R. and R.S., to Robert E. Goldstein of New York.

*

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Laura V. Abate, Office of the Division of Reference and Research Services, to Angelo Abate of Rome, Italy.

WEDDINGS

Sunday, August 8, was the date. Two o'clock was the time. The occasion? Well, of course--it was the marriage of Christine Celia, Children's Assistant at City Point, to Frank Umano of Brockton. The bride wore a gown of embroidered white organdy, and a small pearl-studded coronet that held her waist length veil. She carried a double orchid with streamers of stephanotis. Her maid of honor and bridesmaids were dressed in ballerina-length gowns of white organdy trimmed with red velvet ribbon, which matched their bouquets of red carnations. The beautiful ceremony was performed in the church of Our Lady of Lourdes, in Brockton, and was followed by a reception at the Meadows. Where did the happy couple go on their honeymoon? We really don't know--it is a dark secret. But, when they return, a lovely new home awaits them in Braintree, where their friends wish them many years of happiness.

*

Mrs Frances Miller, part-time assistant at West End, left the service and was married on July 16 to Lewis Reed. They will live in New York. Mr Reed is librarian at the Court House in Brooklyn. What a romance it was! Nobody even suspected it at the Branch. It all happened so swiftly. Good luck, Frances Miller and Lewis Reed!

NEW CITIZENS

Mr and Mrs Louis Ugalde, Rare Book, are receiving congratulations upon the birth of a son, Paul, on July 21.

BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY to

Esther Lissner, Cataloging and Classification, R. and R.S., who is remaining at home as a precaution against infection from cat bites, incurred when she went to rescue her pet, Daisy, from an attack by an Irish setter. Both Miss Lissner and Daisy are coming along well, and the former's co-workers are anticipating her return to work in the near future.

*

Mrs Mary Ryan, Buildings.

WE WELCOME BACK after illnesses

Palmira Piciulo, Cataloging and Classification, R. and R. S.
George T. Armstrong, Office of Records, Files, Statistics
John W. Tuley, Fire Control Center

BON VOYAGE TO

Linda Pagliuca, North End, who sailed on the Andrea Doria on July 23 for a two-months' vacation in Italy.

*

Ellen Rita Murphy, Book Stack Service, who sailed on July 31 on the Neptunia, from Boston, to visit relatives in Ireland.

*

Mr and Mrs Albert L. Carpenter, Office of Division of Home Reading and Community Services, who sailed on the Maasdam, from Hoboken, on August 5, for two and one-half months in Europe.

*

Ruth Stenstreem, Cataloging and Classification, R. and R.S., who sailed on August 13 to attend the Edinburgh and Pitlochry Festivals in Scotland. She plans to winter and study in London.

*

Mrs Ethel Heins, North End, who sails on August 26 with her family on the French liner, the Liberté. The Heins family will spend a year in England where Mr Heins will study at Oxford under a Ford Foundation Fellowship. Before returning to this country, they plan to tour the continent.

*

AND Bon Voyage to all others who are traveling extensively and about whom the committee has had no information. Then,

too, Happy Vacation to those who are traveling shorter distances or staying at home.

CONGRATULATIONS to

Charles L. Higgins, General Reference, who has been named one of the Advisers to the Steering Committee for the Catalog Code Revision, A.L.A. Cataloging and Classification Division.

TAKE A BOW

East Boston was very proud last month when Gracemarie V. Alfe, Acting Children's Librarian, was interviewed by the BOSTON POST for its Outstanding Career Girls column. After telling about the many activities and programs she plans for the Children's Room, and of her studies at Emmanuel and Simmons, Miss Alfe was photographed with two delighted children who had won a recent book contest. The interview, Books and Gracemarie Delight Small Fry, appeared in the BOSTON POST on June 30. Just three weeks later, a panel of prominent Bostonians chose Miss Alfe the POST'S Outstanding Career Girl of the Month, citing the "persistance, enthusiasm, and creative imagination" found in her fine work with children. Miss Alfe was also one of the children's librarians who participated in a television program on Friday, July 30. She appeared with Robert Mahoney and Ronald DiPietro, both of East Boston, who exhibited their shell collections and told how they became interested in their hobby through the Science Club at the library.

VISITORS

Kinji Ando, Chief of Library Division, Tokyo American Cultural Center, Tokyo, Japan
Nguyen-Thi Cut, Vietnam, Saigon
Tengku Ahmad Rayan, United States Information Service, Medan, Indonesia

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

Virginia Haviland was guest at a luncheon party at the DuBarry Restaurant on Monday, July 26, prior to her departure for Europe. The staff of Open Shelf gathered to wish Miss Haviland bon voyage, and presented her with a corsage.

Cards received since indicate that Miss Haviland had a very enjoyable flight across the Atlantic, and is looking forward to pleasant weeks in the British Isles, France, and Germany.

On Friday, July 30, Miss Haviland was guest of honor at a second luncheon at the Town Room, Sheraton Plaza Hotel, where her hostesses were members of the Committee on Book Selection for Children. With their bon voyage wishes they presented French francs to be spent by the traveler to enhance her enjoyment of Paris.

*

An engagement shower was given for Cecile Ritter by her co-workers in Catalog and Classification, R. and R.S., on Tuesday, July 27, in the Women's Lounge. Cecile, who plans to be married early in September, received many lovely gifts. Refreshments served included turkey salad, sandwiches, a wedding cake and other homemade cakes, and punch.

*

Anne E. McCarthy, South Boston, was honor guest Friday evening, July 30, at Patten's Restaurant. The staff and a few friends gathered to wish her happiness in her forthcoming marriage to Charles Kinne. An electric percolator was given her at this time. Her mother, Mrs Florence McCarthy, also a member of the B.P.L. staff, was a welcome guest.

*

On August 4, the day prior to his sailing for Europe, Mr Albert L. Carpenter was guest of honor at a surprise Bon Voyage party given by the staff of the Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services. He was presented with a fountain pen. During their two-and-one-half months, Mr and Mrs Carpenter will tour England, visit relatives in Scotland; and on the continent will visit their son, Peter, who is teaching in Germany, and spend some time in France and Italy.

*

A bon voyage party was given by the staff at North End in honor of Linda Pagliuca before she sailed for Italy. A letter mailed from Gibraltor by the traveler reports a delightful ocean crossing.

BPL ON TV

Friday afternoon, 30 July, upon the invitation of Judge John J. Connelly, presiding justice of the Boston Juvenile Court, several staff members of the BPL took part in the Judge's TV program, Jig-Saw, a weekly half-hour sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Education and Station WBZ. The discussion on the previous week's program had stressed the seriously harmful effects of crime and horror comics, so a positive program for the stimulation and encouragement of interest in good reading was presented by the panel, and demonstrated by groups of children from seven branch libraries.

Elizabeth M. Gordon, Deputy Supervisor, in Charge of Work with Children, and Mrs Phyllis Barclay, children's librarian, Uphams Corner, with Judge Connelly and Arthur Amidon formed the "panel of experts" which discussed library facilities for children, and various means by which librarians encourage children in the use of libraries, and the broadening of their reading interests.

Mrs Beryl Robinson, children's librarian, Egleston Square, introduced two girls, prize-winners in a recent library essay contest, and a boy who displayed several articles he had constructed from milk cartons, telling how he had followed directions from a book on the Summer Reading Club list.

Gracemarie Alfe discussed hobbies and collecting with two members of the East Boston science club whose knowledge and interests are developing and expanding as they read and study the many informational books available through the library, and visit museums on library club trips.

The famous dancing, widely-travelled puppet "Clippo" was presented to the audience and performed most realistically under the clever manipulation of Dorothy Dodworth. He climbed gaily about, told of his own private mailbox, and questioned the five North End girls and boys, who showed him their favorite books and introduced to him two fine new puppets, Saint George and the Dragon.

Martha Engler, children's librarian, South Boston, displayed a large scrap book of work done by members of the Imagination Club, who are encouraged to read widely, and express themselves freely in original verse and drawings. Their work has appeared in several periodicals, and won two prizes in the 1953 international competition of Shankar's Weekly of New Delhi, India. One boy read with éclat his latest poem.

Two young people from the Adams Street Branch Library discussed their individual reading interests with Mary V. Doyle, children's librarian, and recounted the results of watching and discussing library film programs.

Mrs Mary Ellen Brigante, Allston, presented a small Chinese girl who talked delightfully of the unusual summer reading club program of activities in which she and her friends are engaged, and showed articles fashioned ingeniously from directions they found in the listed library books.

Mrs Phyllis Barclay introduced two members of the Uphams Corner summer reading club who talked of their individual interest and pleasure in the reading guidance for the long vacation period.

Judge Connelly was truly appreciative of the entire program and expressed his thanks to all. He said the telecast showed clearly how much the BPL is doing for the prevention of juvenile delinquency in making available good reading for all children, and encouraging constant use of the library. Later, in a note, he wrote that WBZ had received "many fine and enthusiastic letters and telephone calls" praising the program.

PS. Congratulations should go to Douglas Leonard and the entire studio staff for taking the unexpected appearance of such a large number of people (6 expected--30 came) as a matter-of-course, and making arrangements so efficiently, expertly, and promptly for them all at such short notice.

F O U N D

Lady's watch

in Women's Powder Room, Stack 2

Friday, July 30, 1954

Owner may claim in Personnel Office

IN RETROSPECT

Thirty years ago, the October-November 1924 issue of Library Life, Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library, contained many interesting items, but we venture to guess that two of them will bring nostalgic memories to those who "were there" and enlightenment to those who were either not yet thought of or were in their infancy.

Quote No. 1

"Adult Education" has at last been discovered to be the public library's true sphere of usefulness, and the call for mobilization has been issued.

Quote No. 2

The Great Open Spaces

The first to welcome us was the little tourist boy who had been peering for goldfish in the pool of the courtyard fountain. As our procession approached, he leaped to his feet with a subdued whoop. Maybe he thought there would be elephants. As it was, the general effect was rather imposing. In the lead was a small "extra" carrying a very large Windsor chair; after him trailed a slightly larger "extra" toting an armful of wire book supports.

"Juggling! Gee!" thought the little tourist boy. Several feet behind, a third, well set-up "extra" pushed a protesting truck, loaded with fiction, travel books, essays, plays and biography. Finally, clutching a date-stamp, pencil, charging blanks, and an inkpad, came, with a slightly worried expression, the "courtyard attendant."

The book truck was wheeled into position; non-fiction was attached to a table with the book supports; the breathless "extra" set down his Windsor chair, into which the attendant sank gracefully. A crowd gathered--well, anyway a relative of the tourist child strolled over.

"What are you doing--airing the books?"

The first to make use of the "courtyard library" were two girl hikers from New York. They came in wearing sweaters and knickers and carrying knapsacks. They were much interested in the experiment, one which evidently had not yet been tried in New York.

Later, some young ladies from a nearby office building discovered us. They selected plays. When the lunch time was up, they turned in the volumes reluctantly, and were much cheered to find that the books would be reserved for them the next day. The "continued-in-our-next" idea seemed to please them, for thereafter they came in almost every noon-hour. Magazines also were much in demand, and the courtyard benches were dotted with "Atlantics" and "Scribners."

One of the most interesting patrons was a man who had been blind for eighteen years and who had recently regained his sight through a series of delicate operations. He came in every day, and read through "The Sea and the Jungle."

Likewise there was one dear old lady, who asked the attendant to suggest a "nice" book. She shook her head at the proffered volumes of fiction and selected "Two Years Among New Guinea Cannibals" instead. "This book looks kinda educational," she murmured.

People from all parts of the country presently took advantage of the suggestion to "read a good book in the courtyard at noon." From California, Utah, New Mexico, Minnesota, they came. When they had sufficiently admired the building and the courtyard, they invariably disclosed how much their new library was going to cost. "Yessir, right on Main Street, opposite the bank."

"But your circulation!" one hears the small-town librarians cry. "How was your circulation?"

"Excellent, thank you," the attendant replies courteously. "Even in September, when it got chilly, we enjoyed being outdoors----"

"No! No!" the scandalized librarians interrupt. "The book circulation!"

The attendant's lips twist ruefully. "Well, it wasn't alarming. Seven volumes or so went out each noon. We weren't aiming for record circulation, you know. However, the books were read. Usually every seat in the courtyard was taken. And oh!" ---with a joyous sigh of reminiscence---"Everyone did have such a good time."

M.E.P.
(Mary E. Prim
Information Office)

A.L.A. CONFERENCE REPORTS

Cataloging and Classification Division

The business meeting was preceded by a reception for the incoming officers, who included Mrs Orcena Mahoney who had been elected to the newly created office of Executive Secretary. The reports of officers and committees, and constitutional amendments provoked nothing so interesting as the heated discussion set off by the business of creating special committees on which the floor felt that only members of the DCC could serve.

At the Thursday morning meeting, Lucile M. Morsch, Library of Congress, presented the Margaret Mann Award to Pauline Seely of the Denver Public Library. Wyllis E. Wright, Williams College Library, Carlyle J. Frarey, Duke University Library and Richard S. Angell, Library of Congress, spoke on the problems of standards for subject headings. The fact that 70% of card catalog users are satisfied in finding what they want could still be improved. Such findings generally give catalog use by an average user who is satisfied, yet there is need of data of quantitative results of the minority who has difficulty.

A large amount of material is lost under broad subject headings, because of lack of clarity in the meanings of specific headings. A selective coverage for material over fifty years old (author entry only); problems in the area of geographically treated subjects; in language, as in phrases and inverted headings; obsolescence of terminology; and predicting new headings were mentioned.

Decimal Classification Special Advisory Committee

At its meeting David J. Haykin, Library of Congress, presented an account of the work on the forthcoming standard edition of Dewey entitled The 16th Edition Moves Forward, Editor's Progress Report. Mrs Eleanor B. Hungerford, Decimal Classification Office, Washington, D. C., made an analysis of the various classification schemes for a preliminary draft. Wesley Simonton spoke on The 16th Edition and the Practicing Classifier. The 16th edition is planned for libraries up to 200,000 volumes, being expected to provide for a medium-sized rather than a very small library which could cut numbers more easily than a large library could expand, numbers will be given in full with underscoring to indicate digits which might be dropped. Classes under which larger amounts of material appear under notation used in the 14th edition will be retained, but the 15th edition will be used if it is an improvement. Built-in aids to the classifier will be used sparingly as they would increase cost and obscure the outlines. A possible bibliographic edition is considered.

Esther E. Jalonen

Public Libraries Division

The Reference Section met several times during the Conference. In general terms the purpose of those meetings other than "general" meetings or "business" meetings, was to call to the attention of smaller units of library service those sources which could be useful in answering reference questions which had "stumped" smaller public library reference staffs. As a result, the proceedings, while probably very useful to reference workers in smaller libraries, had little more than technical interest for librarians in medium and larger units of service.

In the fields of literature, art, history, business and related fields the questions which came up involved knowledge and use of handbooks, histories and the like. The location of pictorial materials seemed to present a considerable problem to smaller libraries. And the usefulness of files of telephone directories was reexamined.

Problems for discussion were introduced by the panel method. A small group of librarians asked questions of individual members of the panel. The resultant answer often evolved into floor discussion.

The General Session met on Tuesday in mid-morning. There were introduced several members who had contributed notably to the progress of the Division over the years. Among these were Carl Vitz, Cincinnati Public Library, who received a citation of merit for his contributions. Mr Vitz responded with brief remarks outlining a few areas in which development might occur in the years ahead. It was interesting to note his suggestions for groupings of subject reference librarians within the Public Library Division as a possible future line of development.

The principal address was delivered by Dr Mitau of Macalester College, St Paul, who spoke on the necessity of attaining wisdom in addition to knowledge. Dr Mitau's address was well thought out, but probably was not precisely the type of talk best suited to a divisional meeting. The theme had a much wider application and might have been more effective had it been offered at a General Session of the Association. Apart from this, it was a rewarding address.

The final General Session of the Conference met in the magnificent Auditorium of the University of Minnesota on Friday evening. The retiring President of the Association, Flora B. Ludington, presided. The first speaker was Dr Charles Mayo whose topic was the United Nations organization. He placed emphasis on the importance of the role to be played by libraries in making United Nations publications available to the general public. His principal theme was the necessity for patience and tolerance in our dealings with other members of the UN, and with other nations. His talk was delivered with liveliness and humor, and was very well received.

Special awards were then made to two trustees for their outstanding contributions. Mrs Merlin of the Arkansas Library Commission, one of the recipients, made a particularly graceful acceptance speech. Mr Fleming of the Chicago Public Library, the second recipient, spoke pridefully of his Library and effectively contrasted its present position with the situation as it existed during the early thirties when the City was unable to meet its financial obligations for an extended period.

The feature address was delivered by Mr Mumford, incoming President of the Association, and recently-dosignated Librarian of Congress. Mr Mumford chose as his topic the concept of librarianship in the present era with emphasis on the personal and institutional relationships involved. He spoke of the continuing difference of opinion as to the role of libraries in the handling of controversial materials and noted that, apart from theory, there are still over 30 million people in this country without library service of any kind whatever.

Charles L. Higgins

Association of Young People's Librarians

Continuing the theme "Adapting the Large Library Program to the Smaller Library", a panel discussion on Publicity through Booklists, Displays, Newspaper, Radio and TV highlighted the kinds of book lists devised to reach the young people by way of schools, drug stores, housing developments, and other channels. Young Adults plan, arrange, and photograph displays, while radio and TV media are used ingeniously and imaginatively to pique their curiosity and attract new users to the library.

Group and Community Work were discussed by panelists who brought to the fore varying experiences with Teen-age Councils, improvised programs, long-range projects—all designed to bring the library to the favorable attention of young extroverts and young introverts and to increase the library's knowledge of and service to the community.

A forum book discussion on Theodore White's Fire in the Ashes by five Minneapolis young people was introduced and led by Jay Royen of the "Youth Wants to Know", NBC-TV show from Washington, D.C. He had outlined the know-how necessary for a library to put on a successful radio or TV program and proceeded to demonstrate the vital controversial and timely elements by having as participant an articulate German lad, in this country less than a year, take issue with statements made by other panel members. This presentation was top-notch and alive.

Pauline Winnick

ELEGY IN A LIBRARY COURTYARD

Summer wanes
And on the wing a bird is heard
Calling back a season lost -
Forevermore

Weather vanes
Of green-encrusted moulded gold
Pointing to directions gone -
Forevermore

Wooded lanes
That led to stationed destinations
Once sought out but now o'er looked -
Forevermore

Leaded panes
Reflecting scenes from staid parades
Which passed but once to be forgot -
Forevermore

Paper chains
So welcome then - a rus'd excuse
To stay - but now they've changed to steel-
Forevermore

Whispered strains
Of music heard but once; the chance
Not taken then, perhaps it's now? -
No nevermore

John McCafferty

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction--Library Science

American Association of School Librarians. Committee on Planning School Library Quarters. Dear Mr Architect: an open letter from the school librarian.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1952

American Library Association. Board on Personnel Administration. Personnel administration for libraries; a bibliographical essay.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1953

American Library Association. Board on Personnel Administration. Personnel organization and procedure; a manual suggested for use in college and university libraries.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1952

American Library Association. Board on Personnel Administration. Personnel organization and procedure; a manual suggested for use in public libraries.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1952

American Library Association. Committee on Intellectual Freedom. Freedom of communication.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1954

Association of College and Reference Libraries. ACRL monographs, no. 10-11.
Chicago, Publications Committee, Association of College and Reference Libraries, 1953-54
No. 10. Proceedings of the 1953 ACRL Buildings Plans Institute with a special bibliography
No. 11. Proceedings of the 1954 ACRL Building Plans Institute with R. H. Muller's Compact book storage.

Chicago University. Graduate Library School. The core of education for librarianship.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1954

Graham, Bessie. Bookman's manual; a guide to literature. 7th ed. rev. and enl.
New York, Bowker, 1954

Heuser, Frederick W. J. German university and technical libraries.
New York, Germanistic Society of America 1951

Library literature, 1954.
New York, H. W. Wilson, 1954

Long, Harriet G. Rich the treasure; public library service to children.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1953

Lubetzky, Seymour. Cataloging rules and principles.
Washington, Processing Department, Library of Congress, 1953

U.S. Library of Congress. Annual Report, 1953.
Washington, Library of Congress, 1954

Williams, Edwin E. Farmington plan handbook.
Bloomington, Indiana, Association of Research Libraries, 1953

Wilson, H. W., firm, publishers. Fiction catalog. Suppl. 1951-53
New York, H. W. Wilson, 1954

Fiction

Bottome, Phyllis. The secret stair.
New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1954

Lofts, Norah R. Bless this house.
Garden City, New York, Doubleday, 1954

Remarque, Erich M. A time to love and a time to die.
New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1954

BRANCH NOTES

East Boston

On Tuesday, July 27, Duilia Capobianco, Assistant in Charge, was guest speaker at a luncheon meeting of the East Boston Kiwanis. She told an interested audience of local business and professional people how the library tries to fit itself to the needs of all the people in the community taking into consideration the special interests of all ages and types of people.

As part of its program for the summer, East Boston has been having an hour of recorded music on Monday and Thursday evenings. The music, from its own collection of records, is played in the main reading room and has been a pleasant accompaniment to browsers. We have received many pleased comments from the public, including requests to continue playing music for longer periods. One of the most successful programs, the complete opera La Traviata, induced many borrowers to remain for close to two hours listening to the music. The programs will continue throughout August.

Mattapan

On July 17, Mary M. Mehlman was married to Richard Burns of Jamaica Plain, at St Anthony's-by-the-sea, in Gloucester. The nuptial mass was celebrated by the Rev. John F. Burns, brother of the bridegroom. The bride's sister, Barbara, was maid of honor and the groom's brother, Eugene, was best man. The Branch staff and others of the bride's library associates attended the reception, held at the Shore Drive Manor, Magnolia. Following their honeymoon trip to New Hampshire, Mr and Mrs Burns are making their home in Brighton.

South Boston

Mrs Irene H. Tuttle, Branch Librarian, was one of the judges for the recent "Little Brother" contest sponsored by the South Boston Girls' Club.

West End

Members of the West End Branch staff have become seasoned travelers this summer. Led by our veteran traveler, Miss Millmeister, members have already visited several countries. Miss Millmeister has just returned from an extended tour abroad--by plane, sea and land, during which she visited well-known and historic spots. She saw the Alhambra and the Rock of Gibraltar, Portugal, Spain and then went on to North Africa. Of all the places, she is most enthusiastic about the streets of North Africa with their multi-colored dress and many tongued natives and tourists.

Mrs Veronica Lehane also traveled extensively; but in our own country. She went by auto from Boston to New York and Pennsylvania down to Williamsburg, Virginia. Then on to North Carolina. Although our Faneuil Hall is widely known as the Cradle of Liberty, our children's librarian found that claim disturbingly disputed, during her recent vacation trip. It appears that the citizens of Pennsylvania think that independence really got under way at Independence Hall and Valley Forge, while the Virginians give all the credit to Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson. Around Monticello, they even conjure up the name of Jack Jouett, whose midnight ride, they say, overshadowed that of our Paul Revere. Despite these erroneous opinions of the inhabitants, Mrs Lehane greatly enjoyed her visits to the famous historical and literary spots in Philadelphia, Richmond, Baltimore and Williamsburg, as well as the breath-taking drive through the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Smokies. One unexpected and delightful event was coming across a Pennsylvania Dutch Festival, where she was intrigued by an authentic Easter Egg Tree which has been in a Pennsylvania family for three generations.

Helen Colgan went north of the U.S. to Canada on a combined tour and cruise, to Montreal, Quebec City, up the St. Lawrence and Saguenay Rivers and back, then on to Ottawa, returning home via Montreal. She was keenly enthusiastic about all the places; and had but one regret--that she was unable to remember much of her school-day French. Our latest West End Motto: "Always willing to travel".

Joseph Lee Day was observed nationally on July 30, but here the day had a more personal and local significance. The library paid special tribute to Mr Lee as a former resident of the West End, a very good neighbor, and a universal benefactor of children. The writings of Mr Lee, pictures and other material about him, drawn from the WestEndiana Collection, were on exhibit. The children in the Summer Reading Club made their dramatic contribution to the observance of the day when they presented a four-act play, showing the course of Joseph Lee's concern with the recreational facilities available to children, from its beginnings in Boston to its culmination in the establishment of playgrounds throughout the United States and abroad.

The Space Travel Reading Club at West End continues to hold regular Friday morning meetings with amusing formality. The children take quite seriously their book travels through time and space, and

eagerly volunteer to give brief talks about what they have learned in the fields of nature, travel, or the progress of modern science. Today's fantasy seemed to promise tomorrow's reality, on the morning when one member brought in a newspaper report about the people who are actually signing up to be passengers on the first rocket trip to the moon. Although there is no doubt of the children's interest in space travel, they still seem to enjoy hearing about other children's earth-bound experiences, in reality or in books.

COULD IT BE?

Received on August 11, 1954, in the first-class mail, letter from The Nestlé Company, Inc., White Plains, New York, addressed:

Mr Geoffrey Chaucer
Boston Public Library
Boston, Mass.

Could it be that someone on the staff is using this name as a pseudonym?

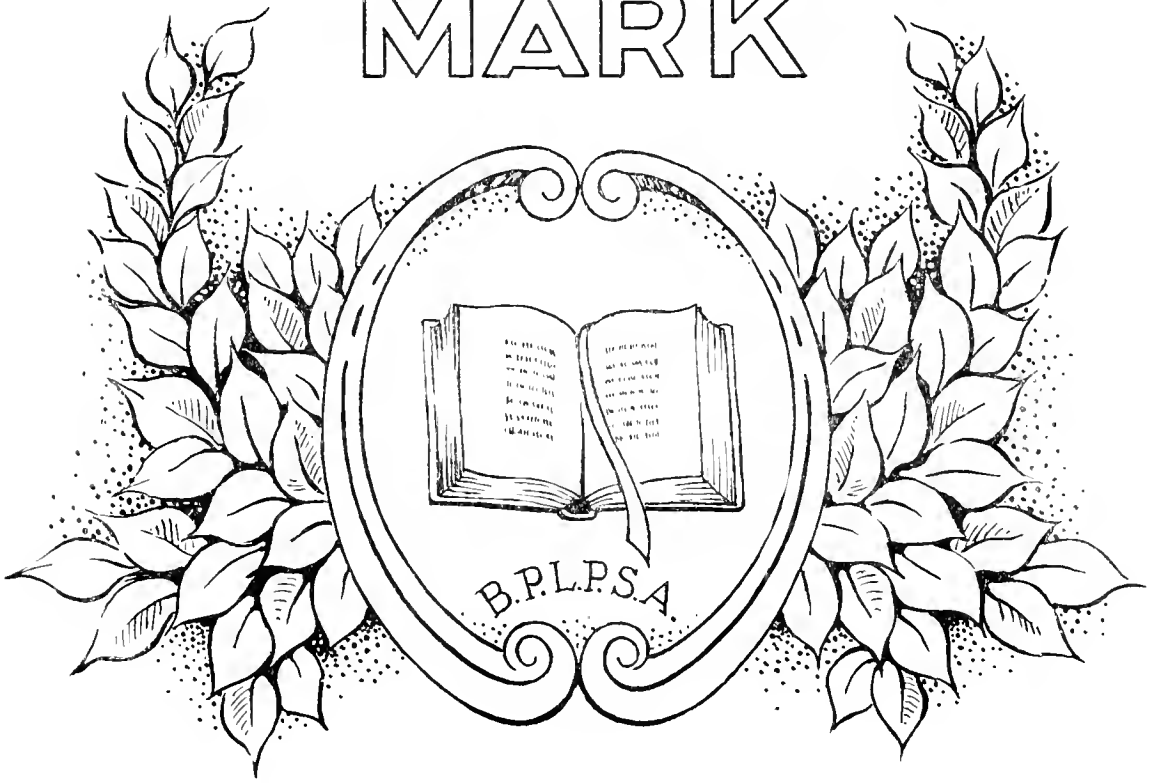
SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

Editor-Pro-Tem's Note:
We knew in advance that the Editor of THE QUESTION MARK and the President of the Association would be on vacation at the time the August issue came out, and that in consequence there would be no President's Notes. But, we had not figured that the entire staff would be on vacation mentally (or completely relaxed and uncomplaining) to such an extent that there would be no contributions to the Soap Box. However, such seems to be the case. Since we discovered it, we have been smiling broadly as we imagine the disappointed expressions which will adorn many faces when from force of habit their owners turn first to the Soap Box and find there nothing but this, the Publications Committee's wish for

H A P P Y V A C A T I O N S !!

THE Question MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 1954

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume IX, Number 9 September 1954

Publications Committee: Gerald L. Ball, John J. McCafferty, Sheila W. Pierce, Sarah M. Usher, Charles J. Gillis, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

The influence of television on the reading habits of the average American has been of intense interest to librarians for the past five years. Still, little light has been shed upon the subject.

The report of an interview with a leading metropolitan librarian was published this past week in which the librarian disclosed his answer to the question. His conclusions, based upon a survey, are these: That television's effect is similar to that of radio in its infancy; that the average American devoted all his spare time to television until the novelty wore off, then returned to books--better than he had been reading before; that people realized that with television in their lives they had less time for reading, so they selected books of a higher standard; that there is less reading of fiction and more of non-fiction now.

These conclusions, especially the last one, are enlightening. The recent trend from fiction reading to non-fiction has not gone without notice in the Boston Public Library. Although there can be found other explanations for the trend toward non-fiction reading the readiness of a highly-placed librarian to attribute it to educational television programs points toward a peaceful co-existence between the library and TV. No longer should we hear the plaint that TV is pre-empting the free time of children and adults to such an extent that few people have time for reading books.

CARE

Our grateful thanks to those who have remembered CARE during the summer months.

Help for the unfortunate continues to be needed. Please give as you are able.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 27. S.L.A. monthly meeting at CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR Library. Dinner at Cafe Amalfi.

October 2. C.L.A. fall meeting, Cheverus High School, Portland, Maine, at 2:30 p.m. Bus from Boston at 9:00 a.m. For bus transportation contact John Hallahan, Open Shelf. Round trip, exclusive of luncheon, no more than $5.00.

October 18-20. N.E.L.A. fall meeting at New Ocean House, Swampscott.

PERSONAL NOTES

Resignations

Mrs Helen P. Sullivan, Information Office, to live in Corning, N.Y.

Rita M. Doherty, Book Preparation, to be married.

Mrs Ann A. Sullivan, Egleston Square, to remain at home.

Mrs Beverly P. Parsons, Mt Bowdoin, to remain at home

Mrs Josephine M. Shaw, South End, to return to a teaching position in France.

Mary J. Joyce, Cataloging and Classification (HR and CS), to enter nurses' training school.

Retirements

William F. Quinn, Superintendent of Buildings, after 30 years of service.

William A. Swan, Binding, after 37 years of service.

Joseph J. Conway, Printing, after 27 years of service.

William B. Gallagher, Chief, Printing, after 27 years of service.

Chester A. S. Fazakas, Branch Issue, after 53 years of service.

Transferred

Irene M. Mains, from Hospital Library Service to Roslindale.

Mrs Laura H. Reyes, from Roslindale to South End.

Mrs Arlene R. Saffren, from South Boston to East Boston.

Returned from Military Leave

Michael J. Venezia, Book Stack Service.

TAKE A BOW!

Congratulations to Arthur L. Lindsay, assistant in the Exhibits Office, for his quick thinking and fine first aid work at the height of hurricane Carol. He applied pressure techniques to an injured library patron so ably that no dressings were necessary when the injured person reached City Hospital.

MARGARET M. TULEY

Margaret M. Tuley, who was employed in Book Stack Service in 1952 and 1953, entered the religious order of Daughters of Charity on September 8. After leaving the Library she entered the Catherine Labouré School of Nursing and was in training when she decided to enter the religious nursing order of Daughters of Charity. It is this order of nurses that are in charge of the Carney Hospital and St Margaret's Hospital here in Boston. Over 500 friends and relatives attended a reception in her honor on Saturday evening, August 28, in St William's Hall. She is now located at St Joseph's Central House, Emmetsburg, Maryland. Margaret is the daughter of John W. Tuley, Fire Prevention Inspector for the Library.

NEW CITIZENS

Mr and Mrs Paul E. Nagle have announced the birth of a daughter, Kathleen, on August 27. Mr Nagle is a member of the Book Preparation Staff and Mrs Nagle was formerly a member of the staff of Records, Files, Statistics.

On September 1, Mr and Mrs Pasquale Vacca became the parents of a baby daughter. Mr Vacca is an assistant at Dorchester. In anticipation of the happy event, the staff gave a baby shower in August for the prospective parents.

Mr and Mrs John J. Hallahan have announced the birth of a son, Francis Brendan, on September 5. Mr Hallahan is a member of the Open Shelf staff.

ENGAGEMENTS

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Mary C. Day, Memorial, to Airman First Class Norman W. Kennedy of Cambridge.

SOCIAL WHIRL

On August 11 at the home of Mr and Mrs William Conley in Melrose, a very pretty bridal shower was given to Millicent Ann Hamer, a member of the Dorchester staff, in honor of her approaching marriage to William Hugh Smith of Dorchester.

The table was daintily decorated with flowers, ferns, tiny colored umbrella place cards, and a pink, green and white umbrella cake as a center-piece. White wedding bells and streamers hung in the doorways. A delicious supper was served by Mrs Elinor Conley, Branch Librarian. Miss Hamer was presented with a place setting of Heirloom silver in the Damask Rose pattern, a gift from the staff.

Besides the members of the Dorchester staff, other guests present were Margaret Morgan, Eleanor O'Leary, Mrs Gloria Vacca, Helen DeSimone, and A. Philip Frederick.

*

An impromptu kitchen shower was held at the Branch for Miss Hamer on Friday, August 27. Around her place at the table where refreshments were served, were heaped various sized gifts of all possible shapes including two wrapped and decorated to represent the bride and groom.

*

On Tuesday, August 24, Duilia Capobianco, Assistant in Charge at East Boston, was given a Bon Voyage party at the Hotel Vendome by the staff and Jennie Femino of North End. A travel-alarm clock in a red leather case was given to Miss Capobianco to make sure she would be on time for the many wonderful activities she has planned for her six-weeks' tour of Europe.

Miss Capobianco, accompanied by her sister, left August 27 from Logan Airport

bound for Paris. They will go on to visit the French and Italian Rivieras, the Dolomites, Innsbruck, Genoa, Milan, Venice, Capri, Perugia, Florence, Naples, and Rome.

WEDDINGS

Saturday, August 21, 1954 was the day of the wedding at St John's Church at 10 a.m. Mass of Rita Marie Doherty and Frederic Casey of Winthrop. The lovely bride looked radiant in a gown of white lace and taffeta. Margaret Doherty served as Honor attendant at her sister's wedding and wore a rose taffeta gown. The groom looked handsome and gallant on crutches needed because of a paratroop accident at Army camp where he is stationed.

The reception, held at the Paul Roger House, Revere, was attended by many library friends. The Caseys motored to Kentucky where they plan to make their home for the next year.

*

At St Ambrose Church, Dorchester, on August 28, Anne E. McCarthy, South Boston, and Charles Kinne were married at a Nuptial Mass. The bride's gown was of Chantilly lace over white satin with a fingertip length veil. She carried a bouquet of white roses and eucharist lilies with a white orchid center. Mrs Herbert Hewes (formerly Marie McCarthy of Book Purchasing) was matron of honor for her sister. The reception was held in the solarium at the Hotel Vendome. Music at the reception was ably provided by Frankie Myers.

*

On Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock, the fourth of September, Millicent Ann Hamer was married to William Hugh Smith at the Stoughton Street Baptist Church in Dorchester. Officiating at the ceremony was the bride's father, the Reverend William Llewellyn Hamer. The church was beautifully decorated with white fall flowers and candles, and the bride was lovely in a ballerina gown of white taffeta with a shoulder length veil and a bridal bouquet. Her bridesmaid wore green taffeta and carried sweetheart roses.

After a wedding trip to Maine and Washington, Mr and Mrs Smith will make their home in Newton Centre where Mr Smith is attending Andover Newton Theological School. Mrs Smith will continue as an assistant at Dorchester.

*

On September 5, at 2:30 p.m., Joan Lorraine Dandrow became the bride of Girard D. Hottleman, Book Purchasing, at St Paul's Church in Dorchester. The bride, wearing a white gown of lace over satin with Juilliard cap and finger tip veil, carried a prayer book with orchid streamers. The matron of honor was Mrs Gloria MacIssaac, sister of the bride. G. MacIssaacs was best man, acting as proxy for Edward Fisher who is in the service. Following the reception at the MacIssaac home in Jamaica Plain, Mr and Mrs Hottleman left for a honeymoon in New Hampshire.

*

On Saturday morning, September 11, at the Sacred Heart Church in Roslindale, Rosemarie Iarrobino, Business Office, became the bride of Richard Paul Mulcahy of Jamaica Plain.

Rosemarie looked lovely in a full length gown of antique satin trimmed with a collar of seed pearls and an orange blossom crown with illusion veiling. The bride's bouquet was white orchids on a prayer book with stephanotis streamers.

Her sister, Patricia, as maid of honor, wore emerald green taffeta as did her bridesmaids, one of whom was Mrs Barbara Bloom, Accounting. The flower girl, little Margaret Iarrobino, was adorable in yellow taffeta and floral tiara.

The reception which followed immediately was held at the King Phillip Ballroom in Wrentham and was thoroughly enjoyed by many guests who braved the hurricane to attend.

Following a honeymoon in New York and Washington, D.C., Mr and Mrs Mulcahy will reside in Boston.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

At the November business meeting the Nominating Committee will present the list of candidates of officers to be elected at the annual meeting in January. It is perhaps human nature to find excuses to avoid being a candidate, to let "George do it". But we should appreciate the importance of the task of the Nominating Committee and give to them the cooperation they need if they are to present a representative list of candidates.

A SORT survey completed early this summer had several items of particular interest to members of the BPLPSA:

We have one of the largest memberships of any staff organization in SORT, being one of the four having over 400 members; but we have the smallest dues of any organization being one of the six having dues of fifty cents a year (three had dues of $6.00 a year and the average dues were about $2.00). Our CARE program was cited, attention being given to the fact that we have given $2,546.00 to CARE since we adopted it. Our Association was also singled out as a pace-setter for its part in raising $8,000.00 for the Centennial Gift.

B. Joseph O'Neil

STAFF IN PRINT

Dorothy Dodworth, children's assistant at North End, had a delightful picture book, A Dangerous Day for Mrs Doodlepunk, published September 7 by William R. Scott, Inc., of New York. An excerpt from the blurb states: "a fresh and original picture-story by a talented newcomer to the field, its theme is the strained interpersonal relations between Mrs Doodlepunk, a young lady of seven, and her neighbor, Mr Frizzboy, aged eight and up to no good. Needless to say, she turns the tables on the villain."

MLA AND INSURANCE

We have been asked to bring to the attention of M.L.A. members the offer of the Loyalty-Group Insurance Plan. Policies written under this plan are available to librarians who are not acceptable risks for individual policies. Many librarians throughout the state have been in this Group insurance plan since August, 1953. Further information can be obtained at the Personnel Office.

VERMONT LIBRARY MEETING

Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Adults, spoke on The Role of the Library in the Community at the Pre-Conference Adult Education Workshop of the Vermont Free Public Library Commission at Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee Vermont, on Thursday morning, September 2, 1954.

Mr Edward Muir, New England Representative of the Great Books Foundation, briefly described the services of the Foundation in setting up leadership training groups for small communities and in organizing new Great Books programs. Mr Muir's headquarters are in the Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

This meeting immediately preceded the Biennial Convention of the Vermont Library Association. Mrs Javelin also served as a Consultant on Adult Education programming during the Conference.

AMERICAN HERITAGE PROJECT

A grant for a young adult demonstration project under the American Heritage Project has been made jointly to five libraries in Greater Boston communities--Arlington, Brookline, Medford, Quincy, and Boston. The local director of this project will be M. Jane Manthorne, Young Adults Librarian, Open Shelf.

Present plans for the Boston Public Library's participation include four programs to be conducted at Adams Street, North End, Mattapan, and Open Shelf.

AMERICAN JEWISH TERCENTENARY

The Tercentenary of the Settlement of the Jews in America is being observed from September, 1954 to May, 1955. This event marks the arrival of a sturdy band of twenty-three Jews who came to New Amsterdam, now New York, in 1654.

Great plans are going forward in hundreds of cities. Extensive preparations are going on in Boston. A committee of 300 hand-picked leaders in this Boston community has been formed to spark-plug plans. The theme of the Tercentenary is MAN'S OPPORTUNITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER FREEDOM. The observance will be marked in diverse ways by books, magazine and newspaper articles, conferences, meetings, lectures, study programs, radio and television programs, exhibits, concerts, organizational projects, special ceremonies--and in a hundred other ways.

In consonance with all these preparations, the West End Branch Library stands ready to serve with special exhibits of books and photographs being especially gathered to meet the call. Two members of the B.P.L. staff are serving on The Tercentenary Libraries Exhibits Committee for

Boston and surrounding areas, Fanny Goldstein and Zoltán Haraszti.

RETIREMENTS

Chester A.S. Fazakas

Congratulations to Chester A. S. Fazakas upon his retirement from the library staff after fifty-three years of service. While this time was all spent as a member of the Branch Issue Department, Mr Fazakas' work took him regularly to other departments of the library, where he will be greatly missed for his constant helpfulness, his ready wit, and his outgoing, generous spirit. Few members of the staff would be as generally and as sincerely missed; and our very best wishes go with him as he enters upon this new phase of life. While we know that Mr Fazakas' love for the library will keep him from remaining away for long periods of time, we want to express the hope that he will never allow himself to become a stranger among us.

Bessie L. Doherty

William B. Gallagher

With the retirement on September 7 of William B. Gallagher, Chief of the Printing Department since November 19, 1937 and a member of that Department since November 1, 1926, the Boston Public Library loses one of its most versatile members. Bill is a man of parts: a good athlete in the first quarter of the century, a fine soldier in World War I, an active member in the American Legion, and a first-rate craftsman whose technical knowledge and ability was widely respected and whose cooperation was a shining example for all.

Bill helped found the South Boston Athletic Club and was outstanding as a forward on its basketball teams which held high rank in semi-pro circles. He served in the 101st Infantry of the Yankee Division during World War I along with a certain Colonel Stilwell later known as "Vinegar Joe". Later, he was one of the organizers of the Sons of the Legion and served as president of that organization which was devoted to Americanization, a subject very dear to Bill's heart. He also served as Commander of the Michael Perkins Post, A.L. and of the 101st Infantry Veterans Association.

We wish Bill the best of luck on his retirement, and hope that his health will improve.

WILLIAM A. SWAN

On August 23, Mr and Mrs William A. Swan were the guests of honor at a farewell party in Binding. Bill, one of the most popular members of the department, is a veteran binder, with thirty-seven years of service in the Library. After a catered dinner, he was presented with a substantial cash gift as a token of appreciation from his fellow-workers.

Bill, always friendly and cheerful, will be long remembered by his many Library friends.

JOSEPH J. CONWAY

The present wave of retirements has taken along Joe Conway, a linotype operator in Printing since March 7, 1927. Joe will be remembered as a good-natured, helpful and agreeable fellow who was always the same even-tempered worker. We hope Joe enjoys his retirement and gets a chance to see his beloved Red Sox win a few games.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

Ausubel, Nathan. Pictorial history of the Jewish people.
New York, Crown, 1954

Bowers, Claude G. My mission to Spain.
New York, Simon and Schuster, 1954

Dean, William F. General Dean's story.
New York, Vicking Press, 1954

Kelly, Emmett. Clown
New York, Prentice-Hall, 1954

Norway, Nevil Shute. Slide rule.
New York, Morrow, 1954

Overstreet, Harry A. The mind alive.
New York, Norton, 1954

White, William S. The Taft story.
New York, Harper, 1954

Non-Fiction--Library Science

American Library Association. Proceedings of the 72nd annual conference.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1953

Eyre, Frank. 20th Century children's books.
New York, London, Longmans, Green, 1952

Moore, Anne C., ed. Writing and criticism
Boston, Horn Book, 1951

Shedlock, Marie L. The art of the story-teller.
New York, Dover Publications, 1952

Shores, Louis, ed. Challenges to librarianship.
Tallahassee, Florida State University, 1953

Wallace, Sarah L. Promotion ideas for public libraries.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1953

Fiction

Caldwell, Taylor, pseud. Never victorious, never defeated.
New York, McGraw-Hill, 1954

Ellsberg, Edward. Mid watch.
New York, Dodd, Mead, 1954

Keyes, Frances P. The royal box.
New York, J. Messner, 1954

Sharp, Margery. The gipsy in the parlour.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1954

Shirer, William L. Stranger, come home.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1954

Smith, Lillian E. The journey.
Cleveland, World Publishing Company, 1954

Wylie, Philip. Tomorrow.
New York, Rinehart, 1954

BRANCH NOTES

Connolly

On Friday, September 17, 65 boys and girls attended the annual party which brought to a close the Summer Reading Club activities. The reading certificates which these children have earned were sent to their schools for presentation at assemblies or in the classroom.

BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM

The Red Cross Blood Donor Center, 314 Dartmouth Street (near Marlborough), will be open to receive blood donations Tuesday and Thursday from 2 P.M. to 8 P.M. and on Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. The Library allows 4 hours of excused absence to employees to enable them to donate blood under the City of Boston Employees Blood Program.

During Mrs Wollent's absence, or at any time, the Staff Association through the president will be happy to assist any staff member who wishes to make a donation of blood under the City of Boston Employees Blood Program, or having donated, wishes to be furnished with blood for himself or his family.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Soap Box:

LIBRARY EMPLOYEES EXPENDABLE

With the radio broadcasts by both state and municipal authorities advising citizens to stay at home and keep off the streets during the advent of hurricane "Edna", why was the Library kept open with practically a full staff on Saturday? Surely someone had the authority to close the Library as far as the employees were concerned. There was plenty of time, since warnings were being issued as early as Friday morning.

Keeping the Library open as a Refuge is one thing; keeping the Library open as a functioning institution is quite another matter. Practically the only "refugees" were the members of the staff of the Boston Public Library. Should not their welfare have been taken into consideration too? If real disaster had occurred the Civil Defense personnel would have taken

over anyhow.

The same holds true for the previous hurricane, "Carol". The Library should not have been open that Tuesday evening, September 7. There was no moon that night and no lights whatsoever in the outlying districts. Many employees who were forced to work until 9 p.m. had considerable difficulty in getting home, stumbling over fallen trees and branches that clogged most streets.

Commercial employers were more considerate of their employees. Have the Library officials who work from 9 to 5, Monday to Friday, no consideration for their employees? Certainly during an emergency the Library offers non-essential service, compared to hospitals, etc. Library employees are human too; or are we considered expendable?

One of the Refugees

Ed. note: The Saturday HERALD reported that at an emergency meeting, Friday evening, September 10, Mayor Hynes ordered city department heads to give every possible aid to communities. "He ordered that all schools and other public buildings be kept open today (Saturday) to 'care for those who want to seek shelter or safety.'"

To the Soap Box Editor:

UNIFORM CLOSING TIME FOR ECONOMY, EFFICIENCY and GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS

Might this not be the opportune time to consider continuing throughout the year a uniform closing time for all open departments in the Central Library Building?

A uniform closing time of 9 P.M. would not only provide the patrons with better integrated and more efficient service but would also afford an opportunity to provide savings in the budget and promote better public relations.

In the past when most departments have closed at 9 P.M. and a few stayed open until 10 P.M., many patrons have been disappointed when the materials or services they sought were not available because the department providing them had closed an hour before the announced closing time of the Library.

Closing an hour earlier in those departments usually open until 10 P.M. would allow those working in the evening to come in an hour earlier and help in covering lunch hours. This would give some relief to those departments which are shorthanded because of the "no replacement" policy. Closing an hour earlier would also provide sizeable savings in the extra service budget and in heat, light and power expenses.

If the administration has not already decided on a uniform closing time for the Central Library Building would this not be a good time to consider it since establishing a uniform closing time of 9 P.M. at this time would continue the hours of service to which the patrons have become accustomed during the past four months?

PRO BONO PUBLICO

EGLESTON SQUARE VIGNETTE

She was a dainty and self-possessed four-and-a-half, and she settled herself with a charming preciseness at the picture books table.

"I have to learn to read," she announced, "because I'm going to school next year."

After a few seconds of silent concentration, she closed the book firmly, and made another announcement.

"I've found that the only way to read is to have reading glasses. I'm going to tell my mother." And so saying, she left, dignity in every step, as she went to find her mother.

ONE FOR THE BOOK

The following note was received at Dorchester, together with a somewhat battered book:

Sir:

In regarding the cover of this book, my cat jump on the couch and rip it. If there is any charge for damage please write a note and give it to my girl. I'm terrible sorry.

Mrs B.

Note: The title of the book was "The Complete Book of Cat Care". Perhaps this should be re-read and re-evaluated from a cat's point of view.

A.L.A. MEMBERSHIP FOR 1954

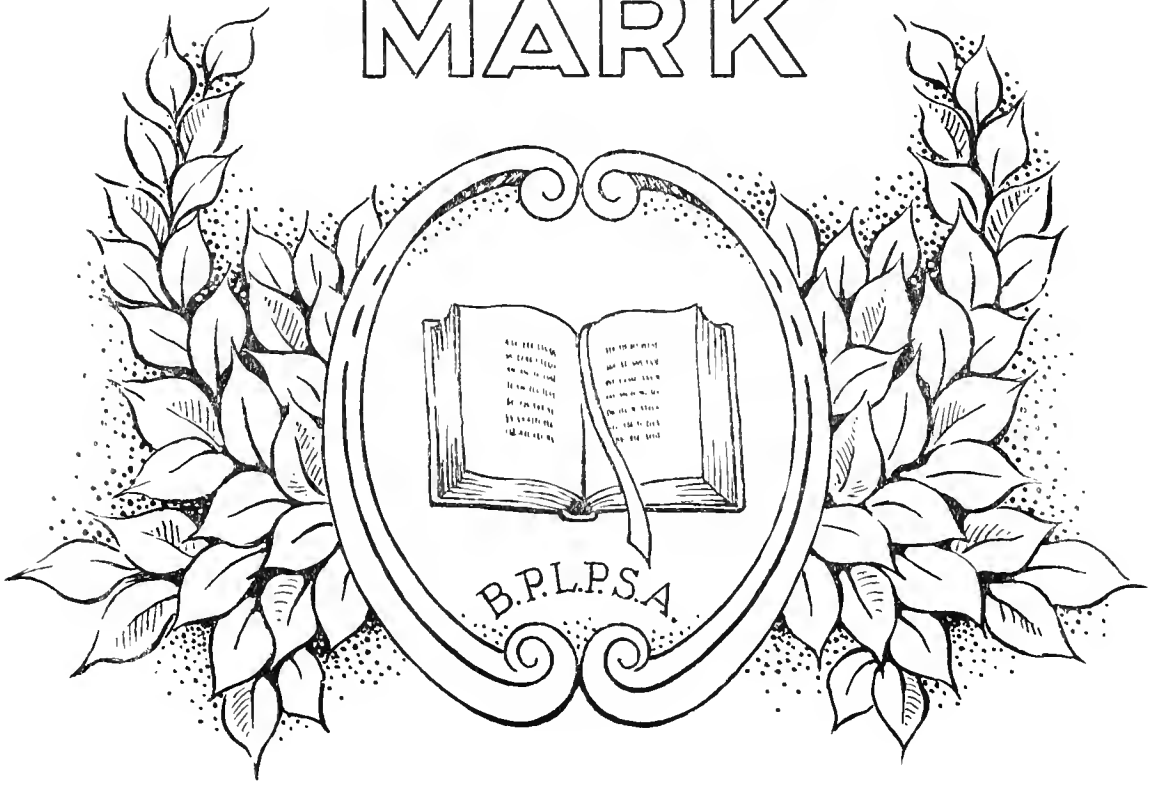
I have just received from A.L.A. a list of those Boston members who had not paid their 1954 dues as of July 31, 1954. Included were the names of 28 B.P.L. staff members. If there is any doubt in your mind about your status, won't you please check with me?

REMEMBER--A.L.A. still needs you!

Don't you still need A.L.A.?

Sarah M. Usher
A.L.A. Membership Committee

THE Question MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 1954

THE QUESTION MARK

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Volume IX, Number 10 October 1954

Publications Committee: Gerald L. Ball, John J. McCafferty, Sheila W. Pierce, Sarah M. Usher, Charles J. Gillis, Chairman

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EDITOR'S CORNER

Many city dwellers, including Bostonians, think little of the unassuming Ailanthus tree that will grow almost anywhere without coaxing or encouragement. They see it everywhere: on unpaved streets, in railroad yards, on the fringes of parking lots. Probably without realizing it, people have come to regard it as a weed rather than a tree.

In the library, however, these trees hold a place of honor. For at least fifteen years they have surrounded the courtyard at Central. Though most of the Ailanthus trees in Boston "just growed" and were allowed to remain, the trees in the courtyard were purchased and planted. And when, during the September hurricanes, three trees fell, men came with ropes and lifted the trees back into position, straightened their roots, and encouraged them to grow again.

Three Ailanthus trees would not have been a great loss, but it's pleasant to note that the people who run a busy library in its busiest season took time out to protect the quiet familiarity of the courtyard, to whose serenity these trees are so well suited.

Sheila W. Pierce

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 18, 19, 20. NEIA conference, New Ocean House, Swampscott

SEE

YOU

THERE

PERSONAL NOTES

Resignations

Natalie L. Velardo, Book Stack Service, to be married.

Mary L. Devolder, West Roxbury, to attend Garrett Biblical Institute at Evanston, Illinois.

Mrs Flora-Ann Huffman, Memorial, to move to New York.

Ruth E. Winn, Tyler Street, to attend Pratt Institute Library School.

M. Henry Karsh, Audio-Visual, to return to college.

Transferred

Charlotte R. Cooper, from North End to Tyler Street.

Helen A. Connell, from Mattapan to Neponset.

Mrs Phyllis R. Kallman, from Phillips Brooks to South End.

Felicia J. Langdon, from Audio-Visual to Roslindale.

Irene M. Mains, from Roslindale to Mattapan.

Mrs Laura H. Reyes, from South End to Memorial.

Albert J. Brogna, from Central Charging Records to Audio-Visual.

Mrs Dorothy B. Clark, from Uphams Corner to City Point

Taimi Lilja, from Codman Square to East Boston

Katherine T. Lamontagne, from School Issue to Roslindale.

Retirements

Catherine C. Kelly, Neponset, after 33 years of service

Francis J. Gough, Printing, after 19 years of service.

MILITARY SERVICE

Welcome Back!

John F. Collins, Business Office

Frank J. Donovan, Book Stack Service

VISITORS

Miss Ko Siu Wah, Hong Kong

Miss Margaret Ohn-Bwint, Rangoon

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

Testimonial Dinner for William F. Quinn

In the Lecture Hall on the evening of September 22, a testimonial dinner in honor of William F. Quinn was attended by one hundred and thirty-five friends and former co-workers. The festive occasion was the first of its kind held in the Library since 1901 when James L. Whitney, former Librarian, was retired.

After an enjoyable catered dinner, Master-of-Ceremonies George W. Gallagher, Binding, introduced Lee M. Friedman, Library Trustee. Mr Friedman, from his many contacts with Mr Quinn, gave a very fine tribute to the former Superintendent of Buildings for the valuable services contributed during his years of service.

Mr Gallagher then introduced Francis B. Masterson, former Library Trustee, and Milton E. Lord, Director, who gave short testimonies in honor of Mr Quinn.

Patrick F. McDonald, President of the Board of Trustees, who was unable to attend the dinner, sent a telegram of congratulation. Mr McDonald thanked Mr Quinn for his outstanding service to the Library during his thirty years' tenure, and wished him health and happiness in the years ahead.

Mr Quinn was then presented with a Polaroid camera and accessories. He gave a very engaging (and sometimes humorous) speech of thanks and farewell.

After the dinner, friends and guests gathered around the guest of honor to present their good wishes.

Music was furnished by Frank Myers' Orchestra during the dinner and for the dancing which took place afterwards.

Chester A. S. Fazakas Honored at Tea

On Thursday, September thirtieth, the Women's Lounge presented an especially festive air with its bouquets of beautiful fall flowers from the gardens of Mr and Mrs Ronald Keswick; its artistic centerpiece, a gift from Fanny Goldstein; its gleaming silver and china; and its trays of tempting cakes and cookies.

The occasion was a farewell tea in honor of Chester A. S. Fazakas, who retired from the Library in August after serving fifty-three years in Branch Issue.

A committee of three--Bessie L. Doherty, Fanny Goldstein, and Joseph A. Lynch--was in charge of this pleasant affair and was most ably and effectively assisted by the Branch Issue staff. Pourers were: Anne Brennan, Alice Cray, M. Florence Cufflin, Marion R. Herzig, Mary M. McDonough, Minna Steinberg, Sarah M. Usher, and Elizabeth L. Wright.

A gift of money in a handsome leather billfold, together with a beautifully-bound (in the BPL's own Binding Department!) leather book containing messages from his colleagues, was presented by Fanny Goldstein.

Library friends, both present and past, took advantage of this friendly opportunity to reminisce with the guest of honor and to wish him happiness in the years ahead.

Sarah M. Usher

Farewell Luncheon for Catherine C. Kelly

Catherine C. Kelly, who retired in September, was guest of honor at a luncheon at the Salmagundi Restaurant on Saturday, October 9.

Poised and attractive, she sat at the head of the festive table wearing the lovely orchid corsage which exactly matched her pretty hat and which had been given to her by the members of the Neponset staff. The many friends who had worked with her at Neponset and other branch libraries during the busy thirty-three years she had so graciously served her grateful public, were gathered about her.

In honor of the Marian year, Madalene Holt presented Miss Kelly with a beautiful Madonna on behalf of these friends. The lovely figure of the Madonna had been hand-carved in Oberammergau and then embedded in crystal-clear lucite with a background of Miss Kelly's favorite color, blue.

Her many friends hope she will enjoy all the pleasures and interesting experiences ahead of her in her new-found leisure.

ALUMNAE NOTES

Seventh Annual Alumnae Tea

Six of the Branch Librarians, Emeritus, who enthusiastically accepted the invitation extended to them on September 19, 1953, by Edith Guerrier, Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Emeritus, to "come back again in 1954," attended the seventh annual alumnae tea held on September 25, 1954. These six--Mary E. Ames, M. Florence Cufflin, Mrs Sara Lyon, Clara L. Maxwell, Margaret I. McGovern, and Rebecca E. Willis—were joined by three who had been unable to attend last year—Mrs Edith H. Bailey, Mrs Margaret C. Donaghue, and Mary M. Sullivan—and by Mrs Ada A. Andelman, Supervisor in the Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

Notes of regret had come from those who could not attend because of other plans or absence from town—Katie F. Albert, Carrie L. Morse, Mrs Dorothy N. Pitman, Katherine S. Rogan, Elizabeth P. Ross, Geneva Watson, and Alice M. Jordan, Supervisor of Work with Children, Emeritus.

It seemed also that another valued friend was missing. Hurricane "Carol" had blown down the enormous shade tree around which the Pottery buildings had formed a horseshoe and which had reigned over these buildings and their occupants in a most friendly and protective manner for many, many years.

The weatherman produced one shower unscheduled by the hostess but conveniently arranged for it to fall at a time when it did not interfere with the festivities, for the guests were deeply engrossed in exchanging reminiscences, in catching up on the happenings of their members in the past year, and in viewing the beautiful colored slides taken by Virginia Haviland on her most recent trip to Europe.

The same group which has come to be identified as "caterers" at these annual teas was present again, but without its former inspiration, Dorothy Pitman, whose leadership was truly missed. The climax of the tea came with the group singing "Happy Birthday to you" as Miss Guerrier blew out the candles which spelled 84 on her birthday cake.

There can be little doubt in the minds of those who attend these functions that the alumnae tea is one of the happiest traditions which has grown up in the Boston Public Library.

Sarah M. Usher

Greetings from Abe Kalish

Excerpt from a recent letter from Abe Kalish: "I am now in the Features Section of the United States Information Agency, 1778 Pennsylvania Avenue, two blocks from the White House. I wish visitors from the BPL to Washington would at least ring me at the office and say 'Hello'. The telephone is RE-7-8340, extension 2260."

Henry J. Gartland Named Chief VA Librarian

Henry J. Gartland has been appointed chief librarian of the Veterans Administration Library Service in Washington, D.C.

Mr Gartland, who joined the V.A. in 1946 as chief librarian of the former branch office in Boston, replaces Foster Mohrhardt, who has been appointed director of the library of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Before World War II, Mr Gartland was employed for five years by the Boston Public Library. He is former president of Boston Chapter, Special Libraries Association, and past president of the hospital libraries division of the American Library Association.

BOWLING LEAGUE SEASON OPENS

Following five successful years, the Bowling League has begun its sixth season with high hope for the months ahead. Anne Doherty continues to have the distinction of being the only player from Branch Libraries. A most cordial invitation is extended to all--full-time and part-time--to join the League. In fact, at least six more participants are badly needed. Won't you join? See Jack Kyle, Stock and Supplies. Hurry! Hurry!

CARE

Did you put a coin in the CARE box recently? Remember CARE needs you as much as others need CARE.

IN MEMORIAM

Garrett Lacey

Garrett Lacey, retired member of Buildings, died suddenly last Thursday at the Savin Hill MTA station while on the way to a sporting event. Garrett, who retired in 1939 after 35 years of service, was the type who never seemed to grow old. No one meeting him would believe that he was 85 years of age; rather they might guess that he was not yet out of his 40's. He was universally liked because of his friendly, agreeable manner; loyally attended every library function; and was ever willing to oblige a friend, even to the extent of inconvenience to himself. His funeral service on Columbus Day was attended by many of his friends from the library staff.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The Executive Board at its meeting on 20 September considered some additional personnel questions and decided to refer to the Special Committee on Personnel for investigation and recommendation the following questions:

1. Payment for Library Examinations as Compared with Payments for Certification for Courses Completed in Library School or Other Colleges or Universities.
2. Delays in Making Promotional Appointments.
3. Pay Scales for Assistants-in-Charge.

I am sure that the Personnel Committee would welcome information and constructive suggestions on these problems as well as on those problems and recommendations included in its preliminary report issued last May.

B. Joseph O'Neil

AMERICAN HERITAGE PROJECT

The American Heritage Project for the regional Boston area was launched on Monday, October 4, with an introduction of Heritage goals by Nell Scott, Director of the American Heritage Project of the American Library Association and by Jane Ellstrom, Young Adult Specialist. Brief talks by the two visitors from A.L.A. Headquarters preceded a tea in the Staff Lounge. Guests were the head librarians from the five greater Boston libraries which are cooperating in the discussion series--Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Medford, and Quincy.

The American Heritage Project encourages groups of approximately twenty young adults to meet in libraries and discuss their convictions about the United States--past, present, and future. A grant from the Fund for Adult Education aids libraries to supply books and films which will present issues for such discussion. It is emphasized that the young adults be an out-of-school group, one of the most difficult age groups to reach in the community.

The discussion programs will begin in the various libraries during the weeks of October 18 and 25. Prior to that time, Miss Ellstrom is offering intensive practice in discussion and leadership techniques to the librarians and young adult co-leaders who will sponsor groups.

As a final aim for the Project, librarians hope for a greater knowledge of young adults--ways of reaching them and encouraging their civic participation--and for a more responsible young adult citizenry.

Jane Manthorne, who is serving as regional director, reports a heartening response to initial recruiting efforts. Already, a lawyer, a social worker, a construction laborer, a chemist, and a messenger are numbered among the participants.

BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM

There are many motives which persons may have for donating blood to the Red Cross. It may be patriotism, a desire to help the men in the armed forces who may need blood; it may be humanitarianism, a desire to help fellow humans who need blood because of serious illness or accident; it may be to provide insurance so that an individual may be assured that he and his family will have blood immediately without cost if the need arises. It may be all or any combination of these motives. But of those of us who have these motives, how many do not give, merely because of procrastination?

Don't delay any longer, make a date today to give a donation of blood through the City of Boston Employees Blood Donor Program. Call Mrs Wollent at Extension 244.

RETIREMENTS

William F. Quinn

As a friend and associate of William F. Quinn, I am delighted at the opportunity afforded me by the Question Mark to write a few words about him. Mr Quinn served as Superintendent of Buildings from May 19, 1924, to August 11, 1954, when he was made Superintendent of Buildings, Emeritus.

When I came to the Library in September 1929, the late Charles F.D. Belden, then Director of the Library, took me about the building and introduced me to the Department Heads. Just before we reached Mr Quinn's office Mr Belden said to me that I would find Mr Quinn one of the most capable and helpful men in the Library. In the intervening years this characterization of Mr Quinn became clearer and clearer as my daily contacts with him increased.

It is difficult to speak of this man of so many attributes and capabilities. First it must be said that he is a devout Christian gentleman, a man of high honor, integrity and dependability. United with these virtues he has a calm, quiet disposition, with an uncanny knack for getting along well with other people with wide variations in temperament.

Mr Quinn has an alert, inquiring mind associated with the qualities of astuteness and intuition. He possesses to a high degree creative ability and the faculty of looking beyond the surface and deep within the heart of things. Time and again in the discharge of his duties he demonstrated ability to organize plans and work out difficult situations with unruffled and outward seeming ease. He is well versed in building, engineering, and other technical matters. He holds first class licences from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the fields of his competencies.

The life of William F. Quinn is filled with a wealth of associations and experiences, some of them prosaic, others interesting, many of them happy ones. Their range and scope are too numerous to recount here. A few will suffice.

During World War I Mr Quinn saw service as an Engineer Officer in the United States Navy, with assignment to a mine sweeper. His navy assignment led him overseas, with action in the English Channel and in the Mediterranean Sea. It is a pleasure and a rare privilege to hear him occasionally recount some of the incidents in his naval career. An audience with His Holiness the Pope, a breathtaking view of a picturesque seaport, quaint customs observed in strange lands, and many other vivid things, are clear in his mind's eye. They take shape, come alive and exist again when he speaks of them among friends.

The greatest tribute that can be paid a man is the measure of friendship, loyalty and affection that those associated with a man bear for him. It may be said simply that Mr Quinn is held in high esteem by those who worked for him and by his friends. A man may be modest in material means and yet be wealthy in the higher values when he is held in such regard by his fellow men.

Although Mr Quinn has left the active service of the Library, his influence will endure in everything he touched here. He goes forth to new-found opportunities with the leisure time to develop them and to enjoy the ever-fresh fruits of these accomplishments. He has not alone the rewards and satisfactions of his technical competence to enjoy now, but he has also the leisure for the exercise of his interests in music, the stage, literature, public affairs and in his fellow man, the latter especially having made his life so rich in past years.

"QUANDO ULLUM INVENIET PAREM?"

Richard G. Hensley

Catherine C. Kelly

On September 30, 1954, Catherine C. Kelly retired from the Boston Public Library after 33 years of service.

Neponset patrons will miss her, where, in spite of the fine branch librarians under whom she served, Miss Kelly was always sought out. Her gracious manner and her calm disposition endeared her to all who came either for books or advice.

Although one thinks of her always in terms of Neponset, she served her apprentice years there, was later transferred to Memorial, and then to Parker Hill, where she remained until a dire need at Neponset necessitated her return.

Miss Kelly saw many changes in staff during her years of service and formed many lasting friendships therefrom. All of these friends join in hoping that with

her increased leisure she can devote more time to the things that are dear to her heart--to travel, to doing kind things for the aged, and to community projects.

Beatrice M. Flanagan

Francis Gough

Frank Gough, Printing, retired on October 5 after nearly twenty years of service. We will always remember Frank as a very capable, conscientious worker who enjoyed his big press, knew its possibilities, and turned out some very fine examples of the printer's art. The good wishes of his library friends go with him!

THE STAFF IN PRINT

The latest volume of the Jewish Book Council of America, Volume 12, 1953-1955, is completely dedicated to the Tercentenary of the Settlement of the Jews in America. Two BPL people have made contributions to this volume: Lee M. Friedman, Trustee, discusses American Jewish Literary Firsts, and Fanny Goldstein, Curator of Judaica, has contributed a study entitled American Jewish Juvenile Books.

*

The 4th edition of Fanny Goldstein's bibliographic study The Jewish Child in Bookland has just been published by the Jewish Book Council of America.

BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

Rebecca Millmeister, who met with an accident early in September and has been confined to the hospital, is now back at home. We wish her a speedy recovery, for she is raring to return to work at West End.

CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETS AT PORTLAND

On October 2, some fifty members of the Association attended the Annual Out-of-Town meeting of the New England Unit, this year at the Cheverus High School in Portland. John Hallahan, Open Shelf, was in charge of arrangements.

The meeting, under the general direction of Mary Alice Rea, Book Purchasing, was conducted by Thomas V. Reiners, Chairman. Rev. Francis J. Gilday, S.J., Principal of the school, greeted the members and Rev. Nicholas J. McNeil, S.J., Librarian, introduced the speakers. Sister Margaret Mary, Librarian of the College of Our Lady of Mercy, Portland, lectured on Laura E. Richards, Creator of Idylls and Ideas. An exhibit of Mrs Richard's books, lent by the Portland Public Library, brought back for many of the members memories of the Three Margarets, Hildegarde series, and Captain January.

Bishop Healy was the subject presented by Rev. Robert A. Hewitt, S.J., Rector. Bishop Healy is of particular interest to Bostonians as he was at one time attached to the Cathedral of the Holy Cross and associated with the Home for Catholic Children. All present now have an added incentive to read the new book about the Bishop.

A choral reading of Book VII of Chesterton's Ballad of the White Horse was received enthusiastically. A huge amount of time and effort must have been expended on this project and the teachers and boys are to be congratulated on the excellent rendition.

The graciousness of Father McNeil and Mrs LaPierre, the Librarians of Cheverus, the luncheon served by the Parents Association, the friendly spirit of the members from Maine, the enjoyable bus ride, all served to make the Portland meeting an outstanding occasion.

A.L. Manning

RECENT MATERIAL OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

Muller, Robert H. "A Program for Staff Reading," College and Research Libraries XIV (July 1953), pp.235-239.

Robert H. Muller, director of libraries at Southern Illinois University believes "well-read librarians" are becoming rarities in the profession. Quite frankly he admits the possibility that this situation has arisen from the rather universal policy of prohibiting any protracted reading by the staff on library time. He does not consider urging librarians to do more reading at home very fruitful, for leisure-hour reading usually is done more for pleasure than for supplementing one's work.

Mr Muller suggests a type of staff reading program which could be established in libraries. Such a program would exist only for the professional staff, and no distinction would be made between those who work with the public and those who work on technical processing. One-fourth of a work week would be set aside for reading. The reading would be done undisturbed in a room set apart for the purpose. Either a reading specialist or a committee of staff members, "top-ranking" staff members, would select the books to be read; the basis of selection would be the actual reading interests and desirable interests of library users.

The immediate problem facing a library administrator who would like to establish such a reading program is the cost. Mr Muller decided that one-fourth of the staff's work week is the minimum time to be set aside for consecutive reading, if the program is to be effective. According to Muller's estimates, to set aside this amount of time requires either a curtailment of the general work program of a library or an increase in staff.

On the basis of a 40 hour work week, two hours a day would be set aside for each individual's reading. In the average work year of 48 weeks, 480 hours would be spent in reading. At a reading rate of 40 pages an hour for fiction, the average work of fiction having 400 pages could be read in 10 hours and 48 books of fiction could be finished in a year. Between 30 and 35 nonfiction books could be read in a year. From a selection of fiction and nonfiction an average of 40 books a year could be read. A staff of eight librarians could cover 320 different books each year.

Mr Muller claims that the "conscientious individual librarian" could read another 60 books a year on his own time; such a person also participating in a staff reading program would then have finished 100 books in one year. The figure of 60 books on one's own time is based on estimates made by Dean Burchard of M.I.T.

In this reading program which stresses quantity of books it is assumed that books will be read carefully and adequately comprehended. Selecting relevant titles from the plethora of annual publications for this staff reading program will always be a challenge. Since the program will cost the library $942 per librarian per year, or $23.55 per book read (according to Mr Muller's figures based on an average yearly salary of $3,768), Mr Muller states the advisability of defending the high cost by having books selected "according to a clearly formulated policy appropriate to the library in question."

It hardly seems necessary to record here what Mr Muller considers the benefits of such a reading program; among the benefits he lists are the improvement of service to the public and an increase of staff competence.

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Burton, Howard A. "Maximum Benefits from a Program for Staff Reading," College and Research Libraries XV (July 1954), pp. 277-280.

In this article Howard A. Burton, instructor in English at Purdue University, urges libraries to adopt a program of developmental reading for their staff. A developmental reading program is aimed at improving reading speeds. He writes: "In the improvement of reading speeds, I believe, lies the answer to the problem of finding time to be well read."

The basis of Mr Burton's enthusiasm for developmental reading is his belief that "rapid reading is good reading, and slow reading is poor reading." The evidence for such belief, Mr Burton claims, is in the results of a developmental reading program conducted at Purdue University for four years. At Purdue University 608 students in the program in the fall semester of 1953 had at the start an average reading speed of 222 words per minute, and at the close of the program had developed a speed of 457 words per minute, an improvement of 106 percent. Comprehension of material read at the start of the program was 58 percent; at the close, comprehension of similar material was 70 percent.

The beneficial effect of more rapid reading upon comprehension of material read is the important point of the whole program. Mr Burton emphasizes that an understanding of ideas is the purpose in reading, not a race in reading speeds. A reader absorbing facts and ideas at top speed has a heightening of concentration and a lessening of susceptibility to distractions.

How such a program worked at Purdue University and what results were gathered is contained in two articles reviewed below.

Howard Burton indicates in his article that the developmental reading program can help libraries that adopt the staff reading program proposed by Robert H. Muller in the article reviewed above. If the staff is first trained to improve their reading speed, the cost of a book read can be reduced by half. Where Muller's program calls for two hours daily reading by a staff member on library time, it can be expected that this daily reading can be reduced to one hour after the staff have doubled their reading capacity by means of developmental reading.

Most libraries have no access to an established program of developmental reading such as the course offered at Purdue. Mr Burton advises libraries to appoint a member of the staff to investigate the procedure and make recommendations for training facilities for improvement of reading skills for the staff on an individual rather than a class basis.

A room for on-the-job reading may be set aside as Mr Muller suggests. This room should be equipped with a pacer (described in the articles reviewed below) and instruction books such as Norman Lewis' How to Read Better and Faster and Marvin Glock's The Improvement of College Reading. A staff member will for the first few days familiarize himself with the principles and methods of reading improvement and with the operation of the pacer. He should set the pacer at a slightly too fast speed and try each day to increase speed by five to ten percent. After a few weeks he may begin to read the books assigned to him on the staff reading program with the pacer. A few minutes each week he can use a book, such as Perry and Whitlock's Selection for Improving Speed of Comprehension, which gives reading time for the selections included and checks for comprehension of the material read. These weekly exercises will serve as a gauge of the developmental progress made. Mr Burton believes that reasonable application to this program will soon enable a person to read in one hour material which formerly required two or three hours.

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Cosper, Russell, and Barriss Mills. "Developmental Reading at Purdue," Journal of Highter Education XXIV (May 1953), pp. 258-262. Kinne, Ernest W. "Reading Improvements for Adults," College English XV (January 1954), pp. 222-228.

Purdue University has recently been offering a Developmental Reading course. The course is given for normal readers and aims to improve basic reading skills of average and superior readers. It is not a course in remedial reading for handicapped readers. The course lasts fifteen weeks, two hours a week.

On the basis of tests given to students who took the course and students who did not, it has been shown at Purdue that reading speed can be increased and that at the same time an imporvement in comprehension of books read can be effected. It is believed at Purdue that reading as a skill should be taught all along the line. Secondary schools should do much more with reading, but so should the colleges. According to Cosper and Mills, without direct training in reading only a very few students increase their speed and efficiency after leaving the sixth or seventh grade. The course in developmental reading given in extension classes and in adult education classes has produced results which indicate, in a general way, that older adults respond somewhat more slowly in gains in speed, but have a slight advantage in comprehension over young college students. Ernest Kinne emphasizes the fact that the program of developmental reading should not be restricted to college students. At Purdue they have found that age does not materially influence reading achievement.

In the first week of the course two tests of reading skills are given, the Triggs Test and the Harvard Reading Test. In the final week of the course similar tests are given with more difficult material to check individual gains in reading speed and comprehension. During the intervening weeks reading films distributed by Harvard University Press are used. The reading films are a series of sixteen short reading selections. The first selection is shown at low speed of about 180 words a minute and allows the reader five fixations a line. The last film is shown at a greatly increased speed of 100 words a minute and allows for only two fixations a line. Comprehension checks

accompany each film.

Along with the films there is used each week a short essay from Perry and Whitlock's Selections for Improving Speed of Comprehension. The selections in that collection are timed and provided with comprehension tests. Selections cover such difficult authors as John Stuart Mill and Walter Lippmann.

Another instrument used in the course at Purdue is the accelerator, or pacer. This machine is a bookholder equipped with a shutter which descends over the page at a predetermined rate. Books and magazines to be used with this machine are previously rated for difficulty of vocabulary and sentence structure and are graduated in words per minute for the reading accelerator. At first the machine is adjusted to the reading rate of the individual, previously determined by the Triggs Test and Harvard Test. Students are encouraged to increase their reading rate on the accelerator each week. By the end of the semester many students have doubled their reading rate without loss of comprehension.

Paul V. Moynihan

THANK YOU!

October 12, 1954

To all Staff members, Central and Branches,

Through the medium of this note I assure each one of you of my deep appreciation and sincere gratitude for that excellent "send off" with which you saw fit to honor me. The party, with its attendant gift, were both acceptable and affecting. I can not, however, refrain from saying that equally acceptable and affecting, was the beauty of the thought behind your kindly act.

Words are frequently useless to express our innermost thoughts. Perhaps, the poet previsioned my inability to form fitting words for this occasion: "Fond memory brings the light of other days around me."

Yes, "memory". I shall always cherish the memory of this joyous occasion until my dying day, at which time it will be a grave occasion. God bless you all.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) CHESTER A. S. FAZAKAS

EXCHANGE EXHIBIT OPENING

On Thursday afternoon the Exchange Exhibition of Contemporary Italian Prints was formally inaugurated in the Albert H. Wiggin Gallery. The ceremony began with talks by Milton E. Lord, Director, Patrick F. McDonald, President of the Trustees, Dr Giovanni Formichella, Italian Consul General, and Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints. The affair was attended by a large and enthusiastic group which included many prominent Italo-Americans and a number of Branch Librarians and Chiefs of Departments.

Refreshments were served in the main Wiggin Gallery which was attractively arranged for this occasion.

This is the first comprehensive exhibition of present-day Italian prints to be shown in America. The exhibition will continue here through November 30, after which it will travel to a number of museums and art centers in various parts of the United States.

Paul Swenson

CIVIL DEFENSE

The Civil Defense Planning Committee held its first meeting of the season October 14 in the Preview Room at Central. Its morning's business was the previewing of five Civil Defense films so that it would be in a position to recommend possible purchase for the Library's collection.

Three British films were shown first: Waking Point, Five Stages of Rescue, and The Atomic Bomb: Its Effects and How to Meet Them.

Two American films shown were: The House in the Middle and Rescue Street.

For this particular meeting, the Committee was joined by two representatives from the City of Boston Civil Defense Department and by key Civil Defense personnel in the Central Library building.

Consideration is being given by the Planning Committee to the possibility of another series of First Aid Classes.

Sarah M. Usher

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

Brokenshire, Norman. This is Norman Brokenshire.
New York, D. McKay Co., 1954

Dior, Christian. Talking about fashion.
New York, Putnam, 1954

Dudley, Owen F. Last crescendo.
New York, Longmans, Green, 1954

Early, Eleanor. New England cookbook.
New York, Random House, 1954

Fowler, Gene. Minutes of the last meeting.
New York, Viking Press, 1954

Noble, Helen. Life with the Met.
New York, Putnam, 1954

Robertson, Robert B. Of whales and men.
New York, Knopf, 1954

Sutton, Horace. Confessions of a grand hotel; the Waldorf-Astoria.
New York, Holt, 1953.

Wertham, Frederic. Seduction of the innocent.
New York, Rinehart, 1954

White, William C. Adirondack country...
New York, Duell, Sloan, and Pearce, 1954

Non-Fiction--Library Science

Stallmann, Esther I. Library internships ...
University of Illinois Library School Occasional Papers, Number 37.
Urbana, University of Illinois, 1954

Fiction

Lipsky, Eleazar. Lincoln McKeever.
New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1953

Ogilvie, Elisabeth. The dawning of the day.
New York, McGraw-Hill, 1954

BRANCH NOTES

Adams Street

The Friends of the Adams Street Branch Library had their first meeting of the season on Wednesday evening, October 6. Edna G. Peck, Chief of Book Selection, was the speaker for this occasion. In her inimitable way Miss Peck introduced some thought-provoking books to a most receptive audience.

After the meeting, coffee and cakes were served to the group. This afforded them opportunity to chat informally with Miss Peck, much to their pleasure. They are all looking forward to Miss Peck's return another season. To our Friends group Miss Peck has become a tradition.

Mattapan

Mattapan Branch recently welcomed back its roving Adults Librarian from a trip to the West Indies and South America. Sarah Richman, a seasoned traveller, was impressed with the islands, but was loudest in her praise of Caracas, the capitol city of Venezuela.

Instead of taking the usual Cook's tour, the intrepid Miss Richman and a party of five "cooked up" a tour of their own. With the blind luck of beginners they were extremely fortunate in their choice of a guide. He proved to be an excellent linguist (English speaking drivers are rare in Caracas); a skillful and fearless driver (the mountainous roads have dangerous curves and are extremely narrow.) He was an impeccable guide (his knowledge of Caracas and its history was nothing short of extraordinary); and a bon vivant (he know where to find an excellent Spanish meal at a reasonable price; this in a country where the American dollar buys very little.)

Their tour included not only the usual tourist spots but also places inaccessible to the ordinary traveller. Miss Richman and company discovered later that they were the only ones from their boat who were allowed on the grounds of the new University City, a spectacular group of buildings of amazing architectural design, built at a phenomenal cost. This was due to the fact that their driver--hold on to you hats!--had served in the same capacity for John Foster Dulles and had entre to places denied the usual visitor.

For the record: Cost per passenger for a whole day trip--five dollars. With tips, meal and incidentals (five post cards at one American dollar!)--eleven dollars.

Neponset

On Saturday, October 2, a group of youngsters visited Central Library with Tyyne Saari. These children were the fortunate members of "Your Passport Through Space" club who had completed the requirements for the Summer Reading Club certificates.

Arriving at Copley Square, the youngsters

admired the beautiful library building with its statues and carvings and the lovely marble entrance inside. They were entranced with the Children's Room where Miss Prall joined the group and conducted the tour through the various interesting departments. She left the group in the Preview Room where the children were entertained by a lovely color film of the migration of birds and a record of Edward Grieg's life story with selections from his beautiful music. Back in the Children's Room each member of the group had an opportunity to listen with the earphones before returning to Neponset.

After a light repast of cokes and ice cream in a neighboring drugstore, the group came back to Neponset to receive their certificates.

The visit to the main library was one of the highlights of their summer, for none of the children had been there before.

West End

The JEWISH ADVOCATE of September 9 carried a front-page feature of the special groups of Tercentenary exhibits prepared by Fanny Goldstein at West End. It is entitled A LIBRARY EXHIBIT IS BORN, by Dr Harry Zohn, Boston author.

The BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE of October 10 carried an article in Leo Shapiro's column entitled "Local Notes." This article also stressed the Tercentenary exhibits and their potentials for circulation in this community.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

No contributions received.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES--2

At the Executive Board meeting on 14 October 1954 the subject of salary increases was discussed and the feeling of the Board was that it might be helpful, in view of the apparent misunderstanding on the part of many members of the Association, to point out in the "President's Notes" that the most recent statement the Executive Board has received from the administration did not specify the date on which payments might be made, but that the payments would be made probably as of October 1, 1954, or as of an earlier date in 1954, i.e., that payments made as of a particular date might be paid on a later date, retroactively.

B. J. O'Neil

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1954

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume IX, Number 11 November 1954

Publications Committee: Gerald L. Ball, John J. McCafferty, Sheila W. Pierce, Sarah M. Usher, Charles J. Gillis, Chairman

Publication date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

At this season of the year our activities seem to grow more numerous, both professional and social. We are so fully occupied that we find little time to pause and consider our past and our future. But during the daily conversational give-and-take, lately one thought seems to crop up repeatedly; a thought which gives evidence that most of us are pleasantly surprised to find that we have arrived at a goal which we believed could not be attained until some time in the future. This goal has been the full effectiveness of the 1953 wage classification.

This classification, adopted in April, 1953, has been placed fully into effect in the unbelievably short period of nine months--actually it has been a longer period, but the retroactive payment pinpoints the date as January 1, 1954.

Those of us who remember the previous classification, which was adopted in 1938, know that a number of years passed before it was in full effect. This past experience, together with the present economic situation faced by the City, leads us to believe that the Trustees and the Director have accomplished a difficult, almost impossible task.

The editors, from their many contacts with their fellow-workers, feel that we can express the heartfelt thanks of the staff to the Board of Trustees, the Director, and the officers of the Library who have brought about this happy event. For some of us, it will afford an opportunity to progress more quickly; for most of us, it will be a Thanksgiving to be remembered.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 29. S.L.A. meeting, Harvard Law School, at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at Harkness Commons. For reservations, call Miss Bean at N. E. Mutual Life Insurance Co.

January 29, 1955 "Free to All", Centennial Musical Revue

PERSONAL NOTES

Resignations

Mrs Harriet C. Holve, Business Office, to move to New York due to family responsibilities.

Mrs Donna C. Maxson, Washington Village. She will return to work on a part-time basis.

Transferred

Isabelle G. Finn, from City Point to West Roxbury.

Taimi Lilja, from East Boston to Codman Square.

Felicia J. Langdon, from Roslindale to East Boston.

Rose Moorachian, from East Boston to Uphams Corner.

Mrs Bridie P. Stotz, from Uphams Corner to Adams Street.

Lawrence K. Vezin, from Open Shelf to Audio-Visual.

WEDDINGS

Louise M. Fogarty, Codman Square, became the bride of James J. Kenneally on Saturday, October 9, at Saint Peter's Church in Dorchester. The bride wore a lovely gown of white faille and carried a prayer book covered with white orchids. A reception followed at the Kenmore Hotel, Boston. The couple took a motor trip through Canada.

A few days before the wedding, the

bride-to-be was given a small party by the members of the staff who presented her with a place setting of sterling.

*

At 3 o'clock, on Saturday, October 16, at Grace Church, Newton, Katherine A. LaBonté, was married to Paul J. Williams, of New York and Michigan.

The bride wore a floor length gown of imported embroidered organdy. Fashioned with a five tier skirt, it had a strapless bodice, topped with a tiny jacket of matching organdy. Her fingertip veil of silk illusion was fastened to a seed pearl tiara, in a heart design. Her lovely bouquet consisted of white orchids, and white roses with stephanotis.

Matron of honor was Mrs Harvey Spencer. Erik Williams served as best man.

Following a reception at the nearby Hunnewell Club, with music ably provided by Herbie Sulkin's orchestra, Mr and Mrs Williams left for a honeymoon to Nova Scotia.

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

On September 17, Mrs Alice Harrison, part-time assistant, Codman Square, was guest of honor at a farewell dinner party at Joseph's. Members of the staff, both full and part-time assistants, gathered to wish Mrs Harrison the best of luck. She will be greatly missed by the staff and public. After an enjoyable dinner, Mrs Harrison was presented with a monetary gift.

*

On Saturday, November 6, Helen Connell was the guest of honor at a farewell luncheon given by the staff of Lower Mills, at the Fox and Hounds Restaurant in Quincy. She was presented with a lovely corsage of pale pink rosebuds and a copy of the ENCYCLOPEDIC COOK BOOK. A delicious lunch and a delightful afternoon were enjoyed by all. Miss Connell has been transferred to Neponset.

BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY to

Laura Cross Fletcher (Mrs Alfred) former Branch Librarian at East Boston, who is recovering from a recent operation. Her latest address is 101 Oakland Street, Brighton 35.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

At the November meeting of the Executive Board the question of provisions for amending the Constitution was discussed. In view of the fact that our Constitution contains no specific provision for previous notice of amendment although Robert's Rules of Order states that each society should require previous notice, the Board was in agreement that the Constitution should be amended to provide previous written notice of proposed amendments at the same time that the notice of the annual meeting is distributed to the units of the Library. This suggestion has been conveyed to the Constitution Committee for action at the January meeting.

Christiana M. Jordan, Allston, has resigned as chairman of the Special Committee on Personnel, and the Executive Board has accepted her resignation with regret. Louis Polishook, Patent Room, a member of the committee, has indicated his willingness to serve as Chairman, pro tem. Any suggestions on or cirticisms of the Progress Report of the Committee presented at the May business meeting may be sent to Mr Polishook.

The Centennial Musical Revue, Free To All, is now in the active-producation stage. A tremendous amount of preparation has gone into it. It should be a credit to both the Library and the Association. It deserves the support of every member. If you have any talent, skill, or service you can contribute, get in touch with Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Chairman, Felicia Langdon, East Boston, or Louis Rains or Paul Mulloney, Science and Technology. They need you.

B. Joseph O'Neil

THE STAFF IN PRINT

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for July, 1954, contained an article by Zoltán Haraszti, Keeper of Rare Books--The First Public Library.

WEST END IN PRINT

THE PILOT for October 22 carried an account of a special exhibit in the Children's Room, West End, under the heading Books About Saints Went Like Hot Cakes at West End Library.

Q and A
DOES THE LIBRARY HAVE A BLOOD BANK?

Q: Do we have a blood bank in the Library?

A: The Red Cross provides blood without charge to those employees (and their families) who have contributed blood under the City of Boston Employees Blood Donor Program.

Q: How do I go about getting this for myself and my family?

A: Obtain a pledge card from Mrs Wollent in the Library Hospital, Extension 244; sign it and return it to Mrs Wollent. You then may go to the Red Cross Blood Donor Center, 314 Dartmouth Street, near Marlborough, to donate a pint of blood.

Q: Can I get time off to go to the Blood Donor Center?

A: The Library allows 4 hours of excused absence to any staff member for the purpose of making a donation under this program.

Q: When is the Red Cross Blood Donor Center open?

A: Tuesday and Thursday from 2 P.M. to 8 P.M. and on Wednesday and Fridays from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Q: I am going to make my appointment right now; when are you going to make yours?

A: ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? (It's up to you, but why not do it now?)

CONGRATULATIONS

Mary A. Hackett, Branch Librarian, Parker Hill, was recently one of the judges for the Stop and Shop Coloring Contest for Children in the Mission Hill neighborhood.

CARE

Last month the response to CARE was fine
And a note of thanks is now in line
'Tis gratifying to know because you CARE
A bit of happiness with someone you share.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL BOOK ASSOCIATION

On Friday, October 29, an organizational meeting of the W.N.B.A. was held at the Hotel Gardner. About thirty women representing various aspects of the book trade met together to enjoy dinner, become better acquainted, and to lay plans for forming a Boston chapter of the W.N.B.A. Following the dinner Elvajean Hall shared with the group by means of colored slides, with comments, some of her around-the-world experiences, with emphasis on the Fiji Islands, which she enjoyed last summer. Guests for the evening were Anne J. Richter, Book Editor, R. R. Bowker Company and Lillian Gurney, Educational Department, American News Company, both active members of the New York Chapter W.N.B.A. Plans were laid for the formation of a Boston Chapter. A nominating committee, including Louisa S. Metcalf, Readers Advisor for Adults, was appointed, to submit a slate of officers at the next meeting to be held at the Hotel Gardner at six o'clock on January 27, 1955. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the W.N.B.A., Boston Chapter, please contact Edna G. Peck, Book Selection (H.R.&C.S.), B.P.L.

RECENT MATERIAL OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

The Hartzell Memorial Committee is happy to announce that those members who were unable to attend the 1954 Lecture by Sidney Butler Smith, may read an abridged version in the November first issue of the LIBRARY JOURNAL.

FALL PROFESSIONAL MEETING

One of the most delightful and instructive professional meetings of the Association was one which was announced late but was well attended--the talk on Wednesday evening, October 27, by Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints, on The Wiggin Collection.

In a brief but effective introduction, Mrs Beryl Y. Robinson, Chairman of the Program Committee, reviewed the accomplishments of the speaker and welcomed Asscciation members and friends.

Mr Heintzelman told of the gift of the Wiggin Collection by Albert H. Wiggin; touched upon the exchange Italian exhibit now on display; and, with the assistance of J. J. Danker, showed slides of etchings and drypoints from the Wiggin Collection. He supplemented his talk and the showing of the slides by sketching to illustrate the development of an etching through a series of "states", and to show the difference between an etching and a drypoint. He made the subject alive and interesting for his audience by telling them in understandable language what they should know and by never talking down to them as though they could not be expected to understand. Demonstrating the use of the press, he and Paul Swenson pulled one print which was examined with great interest by the audience.

In her closing remarks Mrs Robinson said that she for one--and I'm sure there were many who would agree with her--will never again associate a "state" exclusively with a governmental unit!

Mr Heintzelman has graciously offered to devote another evening to lithographs, and it is sincerely hoped that the Program Committee will take advantage of his offer in the not-too-distant future.

The Refreshment committee, headed by Mrs Mary K. Harris, broke away from the traditional October combination of cider and doughnuts and proved that cider combined with delicious cakes and cookies makes a very tempting treat.

Sarah M. Usher

FRIENDS OF THE BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL

On Wednesday evening October 27, 1954, the Friends of the Boston City Hospital held a reception for the new Director, Dr John Conlin, at the Vose House. The occasion was used to acquaint the many guests with the various special services rendered at the hospital, and displays showing the work done by these services were placed about the hall. The Hospital Library Service was represented by a book truck showing the extensive range in subject interest offered by the library. Books, both adult and juvenile, together with magazines and pocket books were displayed. The guests at the reception showed a keen interest in the books displayed by the Hospital Library Service. The attractive appearance of the books with their plastic covers surprised and pleased them. They commented on the wide range in subject interest and were delighted that the Boston Public Library gave such a service to the patients in the hospital.

Helen Kelleher, Supervisor of Training in Pediatrics, spoke briefly of each of the dozen or more services exhibited. In speaking, however, she gave special acclaim to the "one service whose presence means so much to everyone in the hospital; the one service which brings uplift and encouragement to all, big and little, young and old, juvenile and adult--the Hospital Library Service of the Boston Public Library."

Mary G. Langton

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN VISIT B.P.L.

Open House was held in the Abbey Room, Central Library, on Monday, November 8, from five to six o'clock, for the National Council of Catholic Women. Guided tours were provided and copies of David McCord's pamphlet published during the Library's Centennial Celebration were distributed. Officers and members of the Council who attended were welcomed by Patrick F. McDonald, President, Board of Trustees, and Milton E. Lord, Director.

NEW ENGLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE OCTOBER 18, 19, 20, 1954 NEW OCEAN HOUSE

Workshop on Library Buildings

As an indication of what is being done in the way of building for current library needs, the Workshop on Library Buildings held on Monday afternoon was instructive. Representatives of the libraries at Trinity College, Providence, Springfield, and Orleans spoke about the considerations which influenced each in the determination of particular features of their new building, and the values and uses expected in the future from their planning. Photo-murals, photographs, and colored slides were used to illustrate the talks. The widespread interest in this facet of library work was demonstrated by the

large attendance at the meeting.

Charles L. Higgins

General Session

Attendants at the opening meeting of the conference were welcomed by President Sidney Butler Smith who spoke briefly before introducing incoming President Helen A. Ridgway of Hartford, Connecticut, who in turn presented L. Quincy Mumford, Librarian of Congress and President of A.L.A. Mr Mumford spoke first as Librarian of Congress, outlining L.C.'s activities, its services to American librarianship, its position as a cultural liaison activity, and its importance in training foreign service officers. Secondly, as A.L.A. president, Mr Mumford spoke glowingly of NELA, citing its "simple sophistication" of structure and purpose and its leadership among American regional library associations. A question period followed in which Mr Mumford was particularly quizzed about A.L.A. pressures to be exerted in governmental processes. The speaker pointed out that he had to excuse himself (Hatch Act) from such activities, but assured the audience that the First Vice-President or some other officer of A.L.A. will act in behalf of the Association in such matters.

M.L.A. Hospital Library Group

The speaker on Monday was Dr Merrill Moore, psychiatrist and author, who noted the fact that all civilizations have felt the relation existing between medicine or healing on the one hand and music and poetry on the other. He spoke especially of the fact that the Romans claimed the god Apollo as the god of healing, music, and poetry. He spoke of the joy of being a hospital librarian and the need patients had for books, be they books of poetry or others. Dr Moore spoke of the importance of bibliotherapy and stated that there is positive scientific evidence that one's outlook is modified by books favorably or otherwise. All biographies, he claimed, reveal the influence exerted on individuals by books. This very fact makes the work of the hospital librarian of supreme importance. "There is no substitute for a book," he said.

Since Dr Moore spoke as both author and doctor in relation to hospital libraries, his outlook was both different and refreshing. Every hospital, he felt should have a corner--even perhaps only a shelf--for books written by doctors. Some doctors are novelists, others write books on travel, biography, poetry, and people are interested in looking at the world through the eye of physicians.

Dr Moore concluded his address by reading a half dozen or so of his own sonnetts--all delightful.

Mary G. Langton

Special Libraries Association

The Boston Chapter, together with members of the Connecticut Chapter, met on Monday, to hear an address by Gretchen D. Little, president of the national Association and librarian of Atlas Powder Company. Robert Lovett, local president, presided, and introduced Mrs Henrietta Perkins, president of the Connecticut chapter, who brought greetings from her chapter.

Miss Little spoke of her work with deficit spending of the Association budget, and described what is done with each dues dollar, and what proportion (about 8%) is returned to local chapters. She also talked of the national placement service, which is not permitted to charge for securing employment of members; told of the growing national pool of classifications, and discussed a proposed free consultation service in each city, to help and counsel industry to establish or improve company libraries.

A group of members met later for dinner at the hotel, and for the evening's program and speaker.

Loraine A. Sullivan

Association of College and Reference Libraries

Flora B. Ludington, Librarian, Mt Holyoke College, opened the meeting with a talk on the relationship between ACRL and the parent organization. ALA. First outlining the organizational structure of the ALA step by step, she showed how each of the several divisional members of ALA (Public Libraries, Library Education, Cataloging and Classification,

even Children's Librarians, etc.) should work with ACRL. Though each of the several divisions and committees has its own unique speciality, each also has a goal, basic to all--the improvement of libraries. She urged ACRL members to take more cognizance of the commonality of purpose of all libraries, whether they be school, college, public, or anything else, and to work more closely with other groups. Our own library which is, in effect, a unique combination of Children's Library, School Library, College Library, Research Library, etc., might make special note of her remarks.

Arthur T. Hamlin, Executive Secretary, next spoke briefly on the duties of ACRL as an organization and the services it has to offer to members. He emphasized that, while the raison d'être of this group is to cater to the needs and to direct the progress of college and research libraries (by establishing standards, suggesting procedural improvements, publications, etc.), it has other obligations. It must stress to its members that all libraries, college and research as well as public, have a two-fold obligation. They must, of course, be repositories of knowledge; but equally important, they must be dynamic disseminators of knowledge.

Dr Robert E. Moody, Director of B.U. Libraries, next spoke on The Printer's Part in Early New England History. The 17th and 18th Century New England printer he explained, was far from being an artist. He was a fairly capable craftsman, forced to work with a limited type font and with a limited supply of poor paper; and his work is definitely not attractive. Since most of the books of the Colonies were printed in England, his income was derived mainly from an almanac (each printer published his own), pamphlets, broadsides, bookplates, and general stationery. His book work was, for the most part, the printing of sermons. The printer's part in the Revolution is perhaps best known popularly from his political pamphlets and broadsides. Dr Moody pointed out that the printing and distribution of the records of the sessions of the House of Representatives, though a less spectacular task than the printing of political tracts, was just as important in the development of the feeling for rebellion against the Crown.

George A. Adelman

M.L.A. Round Table of Librarians for Young Adults

The regular fall meeting was both practical and exciting. Present to stimulate interest in current projects of the A.L.A. Division for Children and Young People were several dignitaries including the President, Alice L. LeFevre. Its newly appointed Young Adult Specialist, Jane Elstrom, described the beginnings of the American Heritage project in the Boston area. Virginia Haviland, Chairman of the Children's Librarians' Association called attention to the new package libraries of foreign books for children and young people. The Division's Executive Secretary, Mildred Batchelder, was the main speaker of the morning.

Describing The Problems and Compensations in Library Work for Young People, Miss Batchelder stressed the need to work closely with other community agencies, including those concerned with juvenile delinquency, and with parents. She urged young adult participation in planning their own group programs and in selecting a book collection. Not only do young people and their leaders need to know what libraries can offer, but librarians must listen attentively to their expression of their problems. Books may be an indirect approach to the discussion of a young adult's personal conflicts and in such informal therapy lies one of the greatest compensations of this work. Lists, Miss Batchelder continued, like those put out by the Boston Public Library or those now to appear regularly in TOP OF THE NEWS, her division's regular publication, are an excellent means of bringing books and young people together. Paying tribute to our Massachusetts Round Table as a pioneering endeavor, the only organization of its kind in the country, Miss Batchelder concluded by noting the great satisfaction that all young adults' librarians should have in being part of an endeavor still only twenty-five years old.

There followed a brief report from Katherine Jeffery, Milton Public Library, on the progress of the Round Table's Book Review Committee. The morning concluded with a vivid and enthusiastic summary by Pauline Winnick, Readers' Advisor for Young Adults, B.P.L., of the meetings for young adults' librarians held at the Minneapolis summer session

of A.L.A. (This material was essentially a summary of the report given in the July, 1954 issue of The Question Mark.)

B. Gertrude Wade

Adult Education Group

On Tuesday, the Adult Education Group, with Chairman Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor, In Charge of Work with Adults, B.P.L., presented an all-day program. In the morning, a unique demonstration and discussion, New Approaches to Programming for Adults, was led by Dr Kenneth D. Benne, Director of the Human Relations Center and Berenson Professor of Human Relations at B.U.

In the demonstration, Leonard Archer, Librarian, Rutland Free Library, Vermont, assumed the role of a recently appointed librarian in the fictional town of Walden. His role required him to be eager to promote adult programs in the library, but also to be a bit naive and inexperienced. In the demonstration situation, he has called in various members of the community, both lay and professional, to discuss and gain their support for a library program on the U.N. In this group are a library trustee, played by Gertrude Callahan, Librarian, Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy, who likes Mr Archer and has in fact voted for him, but is wary of any program which might bring criticism upon him or the library. Miriam Putnam, Librarian, Memorial Hall Library, Andover, took the role of an active women's club representative, who has worked in earlier years with P.T.A. groups. However, her husband is a member of the American Legion, and she is afraid of any program which might be termed "pink". Mrs Margaret Foyer, Librarian, Middlebury College in Vermont, enacted the high school teacher who has charge of the high school's adult education activities. Although she likes and admires Mr Archer, she feels that perhaps such a program ought to be done at the school. The County Agricultural Extension Agent, played by Helen Ridgway, Chief of the Bureau of Libraries, Connecticut State Department of Education, has an uneasy suspicion of urban programs and motivations. Also, as Federal employee, she is worried about violating the Hatch Act.

Within the limits prescribed by the roles defined above, the participants reacted spontaneously to one another. It became clear to the audience observing this interaction that both supports and obstacles were present, and that the librarian's sensitivity to them was an important factor to the success of his program. Breaking into smaller groups, the audience discussed these factors, and Dr Benne summarized their conclusions. When the actors revealed their roles and told how they felt in the situation, the marked resemblance between them and the audience's perceptions revealed the increased insight to be gained from this type of demonstration.

The afternoon session was a novel presentation of the Wisconsin Adult Education Institute--Informal Education Through Libraries. In conversational form Robert S. Ake, Public Library Consultant at the State Department of Education in Connecticut; Sigrid Edge, Progessor at the School of Library Science of Simmons College; S. Janice Kee, Executive Secretary of A.L.A. Public Libraries Division, and Dr Benne discussed those aspects of the Institute which had particular significance in light of the points made in the morning session. The discussion was supplemented throughout by comments, questions, and illustrative examples from the audience. The concensus was: that under varying circumstances, the library's function in programming for adults might include stimulating, initiating, and/or cooperating with existing programs; that to know which is the proper function for your library, you must know your community; and that to facilitate successful programs, you must contact and gain the support of the often invisible power structure in your community.

At four o'clock, as on each day of the Conference, recent educational films were shown.

Veronica T. Yotts

New England Children's Book Clinic

It was S.R.O. at the fall meeting on Tuesday. Louise Weiscopf, as chairman, introduced the "auth-strators" (a happy term which embraces authors, illustrators, and author-illustrators) who spoke very briefly and informally. David McCord, well-known to Boston Librarians, opened the program by reading some humorous verses from Far

and Few and his new book, Odds Without Ends. He was followed by Nora Unwin who demonstrated by means of a colorful chalk talk the way she evolved the decorative initial letters for the verses of Your Prayers and Mine which she recently illustrated. In a considerably lighter vein, Maurice Sendak drew a series of two "then and now" pictures showing the influence of the theory of self-expression on juvenile book illustration. According to Mr Sendak's drawings even dogs express themselves freely today. Tasha Tudor, looking as if she had stepped from one of her illustrations, and her husband, Tom McCready Jr., who was most conservative in his attire, told a little about the joys of writing and illustrating while raising a family and taking care of an assortment of pets that range from Edgar Allen Crow to any number of rabbits. Then Eva Knox Evans Witty, who, it seems, is an author because she likes to read, discussed the research that goes into her anthropological books and paid particular tribute to the assistance she has received from librarians. Isaac Asimov, alias Paul French, spoke of many things including his science fiction stories for young people. Elizabeth Hubbard Lansing closed the program with a witty account of the physical obstacles that authors must overcome in order to write.

Mary West

Boston Regional Group of Catalogers and Classifiers

Mrs Orcena D. Mahoney, first full-time Executive Secretary of the A.L.A. Division of Cataloging and Classification, spoke to the Group on Wednesday. Her talk, The Activity Program of DCC, was from the viewpoint of a newcomer being introduced to her duties at A.L.A. headquarters. Her double responsibility as an officer of A.L.A. and as resident Executive Secretary of the Division enables her to apply the knowledge and experience obtained in the regular staff meetings at headquarters to the more efficient operation of the Division.

Mrs Mahoney's work is carried on largely by correspondence because of the widely scattered residences of the Division's officers. Carbons of all Mrs Mahoney's letters about Division business are sent to the President and Vice-President; additional carbons are sent to the other officers and to committee chairmen when the letters are pertinent to their interests. Standing and special committees are the backbone of the organization in solving problems and in forumlating programs of activity for libraries large and small.

As part of the program to enlarge the scope of the DCC it is expected that the report on technical services in large libraries, prepared by the Committee on Administration, will be ready this year. The Catalog Code Revision Committee, under the Chairmanship of Wyllis Wright, is at work on a new code, assisted by a steering committee and by an advisory group of professional librarians who are not catalogers.

Mildred O'Connor

Caroline M. Hewins Lecture

This year's Lecture, so delightfully given by Mrs Bertha Mahoney Miller, had as its subject the beloved author of a generation ago, Eliza Orne White. The happy, wholesome family life protrayed in her books, was, Mrs Miller discovered, a reflection of the author's own New England childhood; and her powers of observation, sense of balance and proportion, and appreciation of beauty (inherited, perhaps from her artist-grandfather, Chester Harding) were apparent in her work even after she became both blind and deaf.

Mrs Miller closed her talk with a request that since the values stressed in Miss White's books have particular relevance in today's world, it would be helpful if librarians would send to her (care of THE HORN BOOK) a list of the ten of Miss White's books they would most like to have kept in print, so that she may winnow the lists and forward the results to the publishers.

Anne E. Armstrong

F O U N D

A ring was found in the Women's Lavatory, Stack 2 level, Monday evening, November 1, 1954. Owner may claim it in the Personnel Office.

MARGARET FLETCHER FILBURN

In Memoriam

Margaret Fletcher Filburn entered the service of the Boston Public Library in the Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference and Research Division, on September 1, 1949. She was the wife of Howard Filburn of Newtonville, on the staff of the Dennison Company of Framingham. A graduate of Skidmore College and of the Columbia University School of Library Science, she had previously been employed as cataloger in the library at Skidmore, later at Beaver Country Day School, and had spent two years in the U. S. Air Force Library Service. She was promoted to the position of Cataloger in her department on June 3, 1953. On November 12, 1954, while she was on duty at the library, a sudden complete collapse occurred, proving fatal.

Many familiar words can be called up readily to describe Margaret Filburn. Poised--charming--witty--sympathetic--all these are true of her. Perhaps "courageous" is not the word that would first be thought of; but it applies, perhaps more than any of the others.

Margaret Filburn had for years been fighting a day-by-day--indeed hour-by-hour--battle against the twin handicaps of heart trouble and diabetes. Probably no detail of her physical condition was unknown to her. She could have purchased added years of life at the price of retirement and a semi-secluded existence. But she did not believe that life was meant to be lived on those terms. Taking all possible precautions to safeguard her health, she lived each day as it came, as actively as her current condition would allow.

It was her choice to carry out a full-time schedule at the library as cataloger and reviser, and this she did with all the conscientious thoroughness that such a position entails. She was a home-maker as well; and her social interests were many. Probably it was her sheer enjoyment of events and of people that gave her the needed buoyancy to carry on. No one can doubt that she relished life; her original and entertaining comments on its details were a delight.

She had what might be called a unique double vision. She could regard the passing show, herself a participant, with detachment and humor; at the same time, when another's problem came before her, she revealed a rare, sympathetic insight. Her personality invited confidences, and she probably received more than any of her associates ever realized. This partially accounts for the intensely personal grief felt by each of her colleagues at her passing.

Like all proud-spirited people, Margaret Filburn dreaded the possibility of invalidism and dependence. Her end, though to her friends untimely and of a shocking suddenness, was in all likelihood as she would have wished it.

Marjorie A. Brown

An Appreciation

In the recent death of Mrs Filburn the department has lost an earnest worker and a most gracious woman. She was a very interesting conversationalist and could hold her hearers' attention to the very end. If a co-worker should ask her advice about certain problems of the work, she was always most co-operative and would put aside her own work in order to assist her associate in her difficulty. In spite of ill health she was always cheerful and hopeful for better and healthier days.

As a hostess in her home she was very hospitable. I have spent many pleasant hours at her home and these times will always be a treasured memory. An association with such a personality through the years cannot help but be an inspiration.

May L. Crosby

Skidmore Scholarship Fund

In lieu of the flowers usually sent by the Association on the death of active members, a donation of $10 was sent to the Skidmore Scholarship Fund, in accordance with the request in the obituary notices in the Boston papers.

ALUMNI NOTES

Quoted from:
COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES:

April, 1954, page 230:

"Maurice F. Rahilly has been appointed assistant college librarian in charge of readers' services at the State University of New York Maritime College Library, Fort Schuyler, New York."

October, 1954, page 462:

"Pauline O'Melia has been appointed assistant professor of library science at Indiana University."

MISSING FROM THE STAFF LIBRARY

Library Trends

Volume 2 Number 3 1954

Subscription Books Bulletin

Volume 21 Numbers 1, 2 1950
Volume 22 Number 1 1951
Volume 24 Number 4 1953

MORE SOCIAL WHIRL

Virginia Haviland was the hostess at her apartment on Wednesday, November 10 at a dinner party for the members of the Book Selection Committee for children, of which she is the chairman. At the conclusion of a delicious dinner the guest of honor, Mrs Bette (Preer) Pinckney, was presented with an eight-piece TV hostess set, in honor of her recent marriage. The guests then enjoyed the excellent colored slides, with appropriate comments, which Miss Haviland took during her recent visit to Germany, France, the Channel Isles, and England. With best wishes to the bride and thanks to our hostess the usually staid committee members left for their respective homes wanting only more brides and more European tours to stage a repeat performance at the drop of a hat.

Edna G. Peck

SECATORE--CROWLEY

Marie L. Crowley, Central Charging Records, daughter of Joseph Crowley, Assistant-in-Charge, Book Stack Service, and Mrs Crowley, the former Lillian Kennedy of Registration, was married October 30th to Robert Secatore of Milton and Scituate. The eleven o'clock nuptial Mass was followed by a reception at Coral Gables, Weymouth, where wit and music were provided by Frank Myers, for two hundred guests. Many library friends were among the well-wishers.

The bride, unusually beautiful and radiant, wore a bouffant period gown of pleated nylon and Alencon lace over satin with a chapel length veil of French tulle. Her bouquet was a cascade of white roses and stephanoitas with the traditional orchid.

Four attendants wore crystallette and net gowns of delphinium blue and carried American Beauty roses. The maid of honor, Margaret Crowley, sister of the bride, wore a coral crystallette and net gown matching the bridesmaids. Two nieces of the bridegroom, Patty and Janet Secatore, aged 5 and 6 years, were the poised and charming flower girls.

The happy couple are honeymooning in Washington and New York.

ARNAVETS

On Monday evening, November 16, the Arnavets held their annual banquet. This year's get-together took place at Eddie Davis's Steak House.

Presiding over the affair, attended by more than sixty members, was Commander Louis Rains. A speech of welcome to new members was made by the Commander. The Commander-Elect, Samuel Green, and Past-Commander Myers also addressed the members.

WILLIAM B. GALLAGHER HONORED

On Wednesday afternoon, November tenth, from three to five o'clock, associates of William B. Gallagher, Chief of the Printing Department, Emeritus, gathered informally in the Women's Lounge to honor their colleague upon his retirement from the Library after twenty-eight years of service. Sharing the afternoon with him were his wife and youngest daughter, Paula.

Attractive flower arrangements decorated the room. An efficient corps of waitresses and pourers saw to it that all the guests were taken care of in a friendly and gracious manner, supplementing most effectively the equally efficient corps which functioned behind the scenes.

Joining in the festivities were several other retired staff members who were welcomed most cordially: M. Florence Cufflin, George H. Earley, Chester A. S. Fazakas, Christine Hayes, Frances McG. Kelley, Alice M. Jordan, Patrick Kennedy, William J. Mulloney, and Morris J. Rosenberg. Welcomed with equal cordiality was Francis B. Masterson, former Trustee.

Arthur W. Heintzelman, a member of the committee in charge, presented the gift and has given permission for his remarks to be reprinted here. Mr Gallagher's acknowledgment made with warmth and characteristics wit, was enjoyed by all.

The committee, learning that Mr Gallagher had already petitioned Santa Claus for a Polaroid camera for Christmas, made Santa's task less arduous by answering this request a month early. With the camera were a flash attachment, bulbs, films, and an album.

Previous to the tea, Mr Gallagher's asscciates in the Printing and Binding Departments had presented him a gift of money and a beautifully-bound book filled with messages from his friends throughout the Library system.

He has the warm good wishes of all his friends, who share the sentiments expressed so ably by Mr Heintzelman:

"One can Hardly speak of any department in the Boston Public Library without thinking of Bill Gallagher. I feel certain that we all agree in pronouncing him first of all a great and dear friend. That he is an accomplished printer, great craftsman, and master of his profession is a foregone conclusion. For profession it is, as printing was an art in his hands. While in the Printing Department Bill's technical virtuosity was extraordinary and his repertoire with antique caslon seemed endless. His understanding and reverence for fine work of the past and present has made him a most eloquent exponent of the graphic arts. Bill did much to build his task of printed matter into a vital force which has become a monument to him in the Boston Public Library. As a printer, Par excellence, he gave much more than was expected of him by the pursuit of his own ideal, and in so doing, he achieved signal success. No one has accomplished more in this respect or with greater fidelity than Bill, with type, ink, and paper. His palette held no limitations and his tools obeyed every thought. In looking over the years in retrospect we find his oeuvre an achievement that not only brings praise from us for the very spirit of fine printing, but admiration also for his interpretive powers as well. We are conscious of a fine apprenticeship which flowered into an accomplishment worthy of the great periods when master printers aspired to creative skill.

In our Boston Public Library Quarterly, catalogs, exhibition cards and other publications, there has always been a successful result that has played no little part in the departments where the arts are represented: Literature, Rare Book, Fine Arts, Music, or Print, especially in the educational fields of which his part was inestimable.

Like the true artist he felt there was always room for improvement. In each successful result there was the fresh challenge resulting in steady and sure growth that brought him to the very pinnacle of the limitations of his material.

We feel sure that his unusual talent will not be sobered by the years that lie ahead, although he will remember our requests with deadlines in mind, which were fraught with tense emotions when dealing with our various ideas and difficult personalities. His patience and fundamental beliefs demonstrated to us on occasions will remain with us always, deepening and maturing through the passage of time. We have been enriched by the recollection of pleasant hours working over the printing of a manuscript, looking over a reproduction, or reading proof together. His rich experiences, both here and abroad, our chil-

dren, our problems, and the many things we found in common helped to make life worthwhile and interesting.

And so to you, Bill, who coveted your goal and a place in our hearts while working with us in this famous institution your being one of us was all important. The steps leading to your accomplishment must have been difficult at times but they were rungs in your ladder which reached great heights in the hearts of your many friends gathered here who want to convey their fondest good wishes that only our inner beings and no words can express. May the best years of your life lie ahead. We pray that your fondest wishes and dreams, and those of your dear family, will be fulfilled a thousand fold. We shall miss you more than we can tell.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction--Library Science

American Library Association. Annual conference summary reports, 1954. 73d. Chicago, American Library Association, 1954

Association of American Library Schools. Directory, 1952
Seattle, University of Washington Press, 1954

Dewey, Melvil. Decimal classification and relative index. 7th ed.
Lake Placid Club, New York, Forest Press, 1953

Wilson, H. W. Standard catalog for public libraries.
Supplement 1950-53 to 1949 edition.
New York, H. W. Wilson, 1954

U. S. Library of Congress. General Reference and Bibliography Division
Bibliographical procedures and styles; a manual for bibliographers in the Library of Congress.
Washington, Library of Congress, 1954.

Non-Fiction

Flexner, James T.
The traitor and the spy: Benedict Arnold and John André.
New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1953.

Foley, Albert S. Bishop Healy.
New York, Straus and Young, 1954

BRANCH NOTES

East Boston

On October 27, a Halloween Story Hour was held at the Branch. The 205 children who came certainly seemed to have captured the spirit of Halloween, as evidenced by the large number of witches, gypsies, and skeletons, but predominantly little devils, who appeared. The darkened hall downstairs did not seem to stifle their spirit in the least, however, since they were neither frightened nor silenced by the inky darkness with its one flickering flame.

The children's worker then attempted to raise a few hairs by her cackling and moaning accompanying the telling of a spooky story. A few were further frightened by a hauntingly poignant poem, "Someone Came Knocking" by Walter de la Mare. But the piéce de resistance broke ALL resistance when someone did come knocking in the form of a gruesome, ugly, horrible witch. Many young hearts almost stopped beating as she slowly shuffled across the room; these same young hearts jiggled with relief as the children recognized the gruesome, ugly, horrible witch to be only Mrs Saffren, one of the children's workers.

The children's obvious desire for some form of recreation was then gratified by having next the game called "Statues." Presently, the good and fair and true Halloween fairy, Mrs Colarusso, produced her magic wand, whose powers were inconceivable. With only the slightest flutter of this bejewelled object she turned boys and girls into witches, ghosts, scarecrows and jack-o-lanterns (but not little devils.)

A short episode then followed in which a few of the children divulged some of their secrets for making their Halloween excursions more enjoyable. Only suggestions of the constructive type were accepted, of course.

If, however, in spite of all this, some of the children had not absorbed the correct spirits, the children's worker reviewed briefly some Halloween books with their many pages of hoots and howls.

Needless to say, the Halloween Story Hour was immensely enjoyed by both the children and the children's workers, obviously quite equally as much by the latter as by the former.

Mattapan

Despite the marked drop in professional Broadway productions in recent years, the theatre today remains a vital and appreciated art, Friends of the Mattapan Branch Library were told by Eugene Blackman, Professor of English and Director of the Silver Masque Dramatic Society at Northeastern University.

The organization's first meeting of the season was held Monday evening, October 25, at the library under the chairmanship of Mrs Robert Rotman. The group heard Prof. Blackman, who is also book critic for the Boston Post, detail the tremendous costs involved in producing a play. Increased expenditures for labor, from prima donna to prop man, for costumes and for sets have resulted in fewer first-run professional Broadway shows. But the vitality of the theatre cannot be doubted, Prof. Blackman pointed out, when new playrights and new actors continue to be developed.

Decentralization of the theatre with more emphasis on amateur, community and semi-professional groups would insure the continued growth and appreciation of the living theatre in this age of "canned" shows, Prof. Blackman held.

An excellent film of a trio concert by Jascha Heifetz, Artur Rubinstein and Gregor Piatigorsky was also shown. Home-made refreshments were served by Mrs David Klass, hospitality chairman.

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On October 27, the first meeting of the Mattapan Branch American Heritage discussion group was held. The film Due Process of Law Denied (a condensed version of the feature film Ox-Bow Incident) was shown, followed by a lively and interesting discussion. Marjorie Groves of Mount Bowdoin and Harry Karpeles, Assistant Director of Hecht House, co-leaders of the group, will be conducting future sessions at the Branch.

*

The Great Books Discussion Group--first year program--under the leadership of Zelda Kublin has an enrollment of fourteen participants, mostly women. The reports about the meeting have been most enthusiastic, and future sessions promise to be both interesting and profitable for those enrolled.

"Blackbeard," "Tom Sawyer," and "Jo March" were among the characters of Bookland who assembled on October 29 for the Hallowe'en Frolic. Authentic and effective costume impersonations, designed by the young wearers from materials readily available at home, indicated their ingenuity and imagination, and made the selection of winners an almost impossible task. The staff of the Children's Room was particularly impressed with a lad who came as Cinderella's stepsister garbed in a creation concocted from a bedspread and three turkish towels! Prior to the selection of winners, a program of Hallowe'en stories and games was presented.

*

Latest inducement to reading in the Junior High circle: We had a request from a charming young lady for a book--any book--named Martin, "because that's my boy friend's name--and I want to read a book with Martin in the title."

Phillips Brooks

The essay contest is sponsored this year by the Readville Improvement Association. Judges of the contest are George Noonan, president of the Association; Sister Mary Adele, principal of St Anne's School; Margaret Cassidy, teacher at the Hemenway School.

West End

Fanny Goldstein, Branch Librarian at West End, delightedly reports that during a sojurn of work and play in New York recently she had the honor of attending the dinner and reception tendered Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, by the English Speaking Union in New York, on Wednesday evening, November 3. She states that the Queen Mother's charm, voice, and attractiveness thoroughly bewitched everyone at the affair, said to be the largest gathering that the Waldorf Astoria has ever served at one time.

Ex-Ambassador William O. Douglas was the very witty Chairman of the evening. And the guests--the men in tails and their decorations which they were requested to wear, and the women in their beautiful and varigated formals offered a veritable fashion show.

Rebecca Millmeister returned to work at West End from her hospitalization raring-to-go, to the delight of the rest of the Staff and her friends among the library patrons, many of whom had thought she was off on another trip.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

Dear Soap Box Editor:

November--season of thanksgiving; "White Christmas"--Irving Berlin counseling us to fall asleep counting our blessings instead of sheep! What better atmosphere could be desired than this for saying a sincere "Thank You" to the Director and the Trustees for their part--and we assume it was a big part--in bringing about salary increases retroactive to January 1, 1954. We gripe about our superiors, from department chiefs to the Director, with the greatest of ease and rush our complaints to the Soap Box while we are still wrathy over something which may turn out to have been a molehill instead of the mountain we thought it to be. I am wondering how many will as quickly rush to the Soap Box to express appreciation for the raises. I hope I will have plenty of company!

THANKFUL

Dear Editor:

Very often I think of the whole BPL family and the diversity of jobs and the demands of those jobs--necessary to serve the public well. I also realize the pressure of work to be done at a given time and how difficult it is to always keep in pace with what we would like to accomplish. Amidst the heavy schedules of all of us and the problems that arise, how would it be if all of us took a more encouraging, happy, and understanding attitude toward the demands of our work each day? And an approach I venture to suggest is one of more emphasis on INSPIRATION and ENCOURAGEMENT as we work together. I guess I am old-fashioned, but I think inspiration--and humor and understanding--are very important in the routine chores of the day--in committee meetings, day-to-day conversations regarding procedures of a unit, or a problem with a patron, etc.

I find I can do much better work when buoyed up by some inspiration or new learning or note of HOPE. Life is so short, it would seem that this quality of inspiration should have more emphasis at every routine meeting or hard problem we must thrash out to-gether, now and then. And I do not intend to imply that department chiefs, or business managers should sit down and quote poetry to balance up a session with difficult problems to be solved! No!

One day I observed an employee of the Central Library's coffee shop hurrying into a department of the library with a book which she believed a staff member had left at the counter by mistake. The employee was anxious to try to catch the person who had forgotten her book before she might have left the building. Her long trip to this department was in vain, but it certainly made me realize, as Jefferson once said, that "there is wisdom in the people." The employee's thoughtfulness made me wonder if I myself were not thoughtless and self-centered with my co-workers much too often. I could not dismiss it from my mind as routine, for I knew the employee might have been on her feet for a long day, and she was doing this quite on her own "after hours". It made me realize that true qualities of greatness are not limited to the leaders of

society, but that flashes of human understanding, quite inspirational in themselves, are found in ordinary daily working situations in the ranks where I work. This little incident inspired me and made me do a lot of thinking. Another one--quite of a different sort--might help someone else. But it is this idea of INSPIRATION and ENCOURAGEMENT which I feel should be a part of many routine jobs we have to get done together.

Job needs of us all demand records and other statistics showing accomplishment. Things do not always come off as planned no matter how hard we try. But I think that meetings, routine chores, and many things we do together could be more fun in the course of our day. People throughout the world today in very dire circumstances are able to carry on with inspiration, humor and graciousness and our problems are far from being as serious.

I guess I am old-fashioned. But, really, ten years from now, nobody is going to remember how many showed up at that meeting we knocked ourselves out for, or how that order got mislaid, or how difficult the budget was in 1954 so we could not do as planned. But ten years from now, I believe that any unusually human understanding, encouragement, or genuinely thoughtful deed or INSPIRATION given by a leader or a follower in the BPL family MIGHT have changed a lifetime philosophy or helped a number of people or been the beginning of new learnings or a better way--and who is to attempt to measure the value of that? It is the adding up of these HUMAN things that inspires a better society and a finer and better working institution.

AN EMPLOYEE

Dear Editor:

It is shocking and distressing to learn in the public press of a policy controversy between the Director and the President of the Board of Trustees. In an institution that is extremely rumor conscious this is the first I have heard of such a controversy being in existence.

One statement surprised me greatly. It was to the effect that while the Director favored the Research Division, the President favored the Home Reading Division. Now, I do not know the latter's position in the matter as I do not enjoy his confidence, but the Director is the last person in the world to be accused of coddling the Reference Division.

In the period 1940-1950, immediately prior to Mr McDonald's incumbency as a trustee, the Reference and Research Division received an average of about $4,400 per year from city funds for the purchase of books, which included such lows as $7.20, $8.19, and 0 with one beneficient year of $11,659, as opposed to Home Reading Division's average of $95,000 for the same purpose. And this in the face of diminishing trust funds.

Personnel-wise the Home Reading Division has enjoyed the lion's share of the budget, which is understandable in view of the large number of branches. However, in this same period the promotional opportunities afforded the Home Reading Division out-numbered those in the Reference and Research Division about three to one. Not to mention the fact that the aforementioned division was and still is dominated by one sex. And in addition innumerable vacancies in the Reference Division are not even slated for filling, including the Supervisor and the Municipal Reference Librarian. All of this can hardly demonstrate coddling of the Reference and Research Division.

No, the Director is guiltless of the charge and deserves the apology of the newspaper involved. As to the statement that this library has maintained its high standard as a research institution I can only say with George Gobel, "Sure, it has."

Eamon McDonough
General Reference Department

CARE

For the holiday season CARE is offering special "FOOD CRUSADE" packages which are selling at $.50 per package. Made up of government surplus they weigh approximately 14 lbs.

It is hoped that many will want to take advantage of this fine offer and contribute now.

Special Committee for CARE

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

May we remind you that the books noted below are now overdue. Please return them promptly, together with your library card.

JOHN M. CARROLL
Chief Librarian, Division of
Home Reading and Community Services

10-30-54 (date) By mzl

Book
LB 2822.5 E 45
Copy 2

Transaction Number
B71666

Date due 10-13-54 at Central Chg.

10----------13----------'54
Has passed on, and is no more
I cannot, alas, return the book on time,
But I still remain relaxed
'Cause the money I am taxed
Will be worth it for the pleasure of this rhyme.
I have not picked up my pen
Since that famous ev'ning when
I banged my shins on tables slung too low,
As I sat down in the gloom
Of the former "Teachers' Room"
Where none but 3-foot pygmies ought to go.

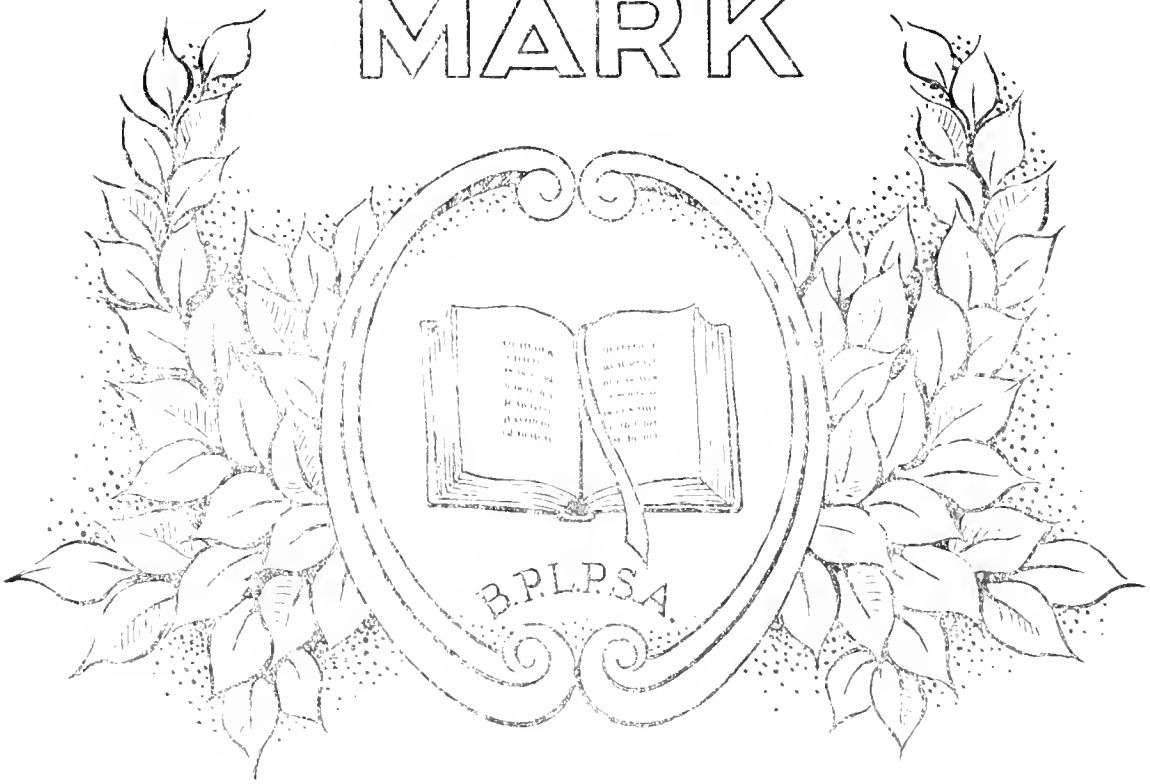
I'm reminded by your card
That the sinner's way is hard
And that he who keeps a book 'til over due
Will be chased from here to h—l
By a certain "mzl"
For B71666, Copy 2

So I'm happy to indite
That I brought it back last night
Yes, LB 28225 is back
I said, "Look, the fault is mine!
Here's my 36 cent fine!"
And Jamaica Plain now has it in its stack!

Mr John J. Stanley Curran Sr.

Thanx, cranx!

THE Question MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume IX, Number 12 December 1954

Publications Committee: Gerald L. Ball, John J. McCafferty, Sheila W. Pierce, Sarah M. Usher, Charles J. Gillis, Chairman

Publication date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

This is the December issue, the Publications Committee's last chance to extend best wishes for the Christmas and New Year holiday season to the staff at all Library units, to retired staff members, to Library Alumni, and to all our friends.

We can feel pride again this year in that the Library is offering to its staff and visitors something in the nature of what Christmas really is. Christmas has, of course, meant many things in the history of Christianity; it has been seen as a period of solemn restraint, of uproarious revelry, and even of the most abandoned debauchery, depending upon the time and place and the temperament of the celebrants. It has in our time and in our country become something of all these things for we Americans have with characteristic efficiency digested all of history's practices and taken a little of each, adding hugh portions of sentimentality ("I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas") and downright nonsense ("I Want Eddie Fisher for Christmas" and "I Saw Mommy Doin' the Mambo with You-Know-Who"), garnishing the whole with ruthless commercialism, and lo!--we have come up with "Xmas"! Xmas is the greatest feast on the calendar of trade, a conventional deadline for the end of the gift-buying period. It is immediately preceded by as wild a party as can be run off without fear of arrest; it is observed by big heads, big meals and impatience for stores to open that gifts may be exchanged; and it is followed by January mark-down sales. We can thank the niggardly spirit of the inspired merchant who seized upon "Xmas" as a convenient and type-saving symbol--for Xmas and Christmas are not the same thing and now each can have its own name.

Christmas is the feast of the birth of Christ and of all Christianity, something which Xmas advertising has forgotten, but which the Exhibits Office, happily, has not. The displays in the lobby at Central this year offer a bold, striking blending of the Christmas tradition with the world about us. Without the over-alaborate dressing-up seen in too many versions of the Christmas story, told through the simple words of the Evangelists themselves, scene after scene of Christ's birth are unfolded before familiar scenes in our own city. The picture of the travelers from Nazareth standing in the cold and unfamiliar bustle of Dewey Square makes us feel more acutely the confusion and loneliness that Mary and Joseph must have felt arriving at crowded Bethlehem... the Annunciation scene set against the background of an unpretentious tenement points up the humble, workaday world that Christ's Mother lived in.

Congratulations to Boston artist Allan Rohan Crite, who painted these scenes and to the staff of the Exhibits Office for their part in this fine tribute to Christmas--a refreshing breath in an atmosphere of too much Xmas.

John McCafferty

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 22. Staff tea, Women's Lounge, 3-5 p.m.

December 23. Open House in Men's Lounge, 10-11:30 a.m.

January 29. "Free to All", B.P.L.P.S.A. Musical Revue, New England Mutual Hall, 8:30 p.m.

PERSONAL NOTES

Marriages

Mrs Bette B. Preer, Mt Pleasant, to Robert P. Pinckney, October 19.

Transfers

Mrs Florence M. Bickford, from Codman Square to East Boston.

Elizabeth C. Dowling, from Bookmobile II to Dorchester.

Pasquale A. Vacca, from Dorchester to Bookmobile II.

ENGAGEMENTS

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Anne B. Doherty, Charlestown, to Daniel W. Kelly, Jr., Audio-Visual.

BIRTHS

Mr and Mrs Charles J. Gillis, Cataloging and Classification (H.R. and C.S.), have announced the birth of a son, David, on December 3. Congratulations to our Editor! (and to Mrs Gillis, too!)

JOHN J. CONNOLLY AND A "YOUNG READER"

On the cover of the LIBRARY JOURNAL for December 1, 1954, appears a picture with the caption Boston Public Library Diaplay. On page 2303, the picture is further identified: "The plans for development of the Boston Public Library include the preparation of exhibits. Here John J. Connolly, Chief Executive Officer, with a young reader examine a Dickens village." The unidentified "young reader" just happens to be the film star, Margaret O'Brien!

THE BPL ON RADIO

The Boston Public Library has been featured in a 15-minute WBMS Public Service program, at 4 p.m. on Sundays, December 5 and 12, and will be again on two future Sundays, December 19 and 26.

On December 5, Jane Manthorne, local director of the American Heritage Project, a discussion program for Young Adults, and Jane Anne Ellstrom, Young Peoples' Specialist of the American Heritage Project, presented representatives of the local groups.

On December 12, Felicia Langdon and Lawrence K. Vezin of Audio-Visual, presented a review of the facilities available in the Recordings Section.

On December 19, Elizabeth M. Gordon, Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Children, will present Mrs Phyllis Barclay, Children's Librarian, Uphams Corner.

*

In connection with Jewish Book Month, Fanny Goldstein, West End, interviewed Harry H. Fein, author-poet, over WVOM on December 6. Mr Fein gave several readings and discussed his latest book Songs at Eventide.

TALKS BY STAFF MEMBERS

Fanny Goldstein, West End, has given three talks recently in connection with the American Jewish Tercentenary: On November 30 at Norfolk Prison; on December 7, at a meeting of the Golden Age Club of Temple Kehillath Israel; Brookline; and on December 8, at Charlestown Prison.

MR CARPENTER SHOWS COLORED SLIDES

On Monday, November 29, Albert L. Carpenter showed colored slides taken in Ireland and on the continent during the trip enjoyed recently by Mr and Mrs Carpenter. Those who saw the pictures, shown in the preview room, were most enthusiastic.

ENJOYED AGAIN

The exhibition of the collection of 'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, which has reached 49 copies since it was shown five years ago, has brought much enjoyment to those who have viewed it in Sargent Hall. This unusual collection is owned by Mrs Allen MacFadden, and lent by her through Priscilla S. MacFadden, Chief of Fine Arts.

RECENT VISITOR

Miss Rita Ejlersen, Assistant Librarian, Danish Institute of International Exchange of Scientific and Literary Publications, Royal Library, Copenhagen.

CARE

The CARE Food Crusade program in the B.P.L.P.S.A. has been going very well. Between orders already placed and cash now on hand over 2 tons of food should be distributed in the name of the Association. Our grateful thanks to each of you who contributed to this fine response.

Food Crusade packages are expected to be available the remainder of this year. It is hoped that many yet will want to have part in this program.

Surely the knowledge that you have given something to someone in need will cheer and bless your own Christmas also.

Special Committee on CARE

TAKE A BOW

The members of the Publications Committee unanimously and enthusiastically nominate individually and collectively those members of the staff who have shared in sending the two-plus tons of food through CARE. Contributors, please take your bows!

B.P.L.P.S.A. WELCOMES BACK

Geraldine S. Herrick, North End
Josephine DeLuca Carter, Central Charging Records
John F. Collins, Jr., Business Office

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

On Tuesday evening, November 16, a supper party was held at the home of Mrs Marjorie Bouquet for Laura Abate, in honor of her approaching marriage to Angelo Abate of Rome, Italy.

The guests included Gilda and Jeanne Rossetti, Mary Brady, Barbara Coffey, Barbara Cotter, and Ruth Michelson.

Mrs Bouquet served a delightful and appetizing supper after which the guests enjoyed Laurie's lovely voice via records. As a climax to the evening, Laurie opened several beautiful and useful gifts.

*

On December 4, 1954, at the Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, a Pre-Nuptial Tea was given for Laurie Abate, a member of the Office of the Division of Reference and Research Services Staff, in honor of her approaching marriage to Angelo Abate of Rome, Italy.

High light of the afternoon was the arrival of a white orchid for Laurie which her fiancé arranged to have sent for this occasion. Laurie received many beautiful gifts which she will be able to enjoy in her new home.

Musical entertainment was provided by the talented Harvie Family (Patty-Bo was employed formerly in the Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services).

Tea pourers were Mrs Marjorie G. Bouquet, and Mrs Ann Lasbury.

*

Over fifty friends and co-workers of May Crosby, cataloger in the Reference and Research Division, held a luncheon party in her honor at the Du Barry Restaurant on Friday, November 16, the fortieth anniversary of her entrance into the service of the Library. Miss Crosby will retire from her position at the end of December.

The luncheon was served in the inner dining room of the restaurant, and consisted of onion soup, turkey with its traditional Thanksgiving accompaniments, and an ice cream dessert.

Following the luncheon, Miss Crosby was presented by Esther Lissner, representing her friends, with a gold and amethyst brooch. Miss Lissner, who joined the library staff only two days after Miss Crosby, made a short speech giving many entertaining details of their early service together. Miss Crosby also received an orchid corsage from her colleagues.

Miss Crosby acknowledged her friends' tribute with a few gracious words. Richard G. Hensley, head of the Division, concluded the celebration with some appropriate quotations.

*

On the afternoon of November 18, the co-workers of Esther Lissner in the Reference and Research Catalog Department gave a surprise ice-cream-and-cake party to celebrate her fortieth anniversary as an employee of the library. Earlier in the day, Miss Lissner was presented with a black leather handbag as an anniversary gift.

*

Surprise! Surprise! intoned (somewhat off key) by the staff of Uphams Corner, proved to be just that for Bernardine J. Grace, at a surprise bridal shower and

dinner party given for her Friday evening, November 19, at the Brookline home of Mrs Phyllis L. Barclay, Children's Librarian. The dinner, prepared and served by Mrs Barclay, was ample proof of her complete mastery of the field of hospitality and the culinary arts. Miss Grace was delighted with the electric coffeematic presented to her as a gift from the staff. The latter also sent flowers to Mrs Barclay. The two weeks of subterfuge and intrigue preceding the surprise party were quite wearing on everyone. Miss Grace, whose wedding is on December 19, 1954, summed it all up by calling us all "a wonderful bunch of liars."

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Mildred C. O'Connor, Alice E. Hackett and Mrs Mary T. Farrell, Cataloging and Classification, Reference and Research Services, and B. Joseph O'Neil, Periodical and Newspaper, were the official representatives of the Professional Staff Association at the funeral services held in Trinity Church for Mrs Margaret F. Filburn. The following letter was received in acknowledgement of the contribution sent in the name of the Staff Association:

SKIDMORE COLLEGE
Saratoga Springs, New York

November 19, 1954

Dear Mr O'Neil:

This will acknowledge with appreciation the gift of $10 to the Skidmore Scholarship Fund from the Professional Staff Association of the Boston Public Library in memory of Mrs Margaret Fletcher Filburn. Her many friends at the college were shocked to learn of her untimely death.

Will you please transmit our thanks to your organization for this thoughtful and generous memorial gift.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) NORMA MacRURY
Norma MacRury
Chairman
Committee on Financial Aid

Mr B. Joseph O'Neil
Professional Staff Association
Boston Public Library
Boston 17, Massachusetts

If you would like to enjoy a really entertaining, exciting program, reserve the evening of Saturday, January 29, and take your family and friends to the Centennial Musical Revue, Free To All. The revue will be presented at New England Mutual Hall and promises to be a most successful musical show. Make your plans now. Don't miss it!

*

In the meantime, A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

B. Joseph O'Neil

REVEREND AND MRS ARNOLD ENTERTAIN

On Sunday, December 5, Reverend and Mrs Harold Greene Arnold were "at home" to a group of friends of the late Caroline M. Hewins. While the tea was primarily to honor the recent publication of CAROLINE M. HEWINS: HER BOOK, it happily coincided with the anniversary of two other events which helped to shape the career of Caroline M. Hewins. It was approximately one hundred years ago, ca. 1854, when Mr Hewins purchased the land and laid the plans for the home which was to house the eight Hewins girls and their parents at 55 Emmonsdale Road, West Roxbury. This house, completed for occupancy about 1857, is now owned by Mr and Mrs Arnold and has retained so much of its early furnishings and atmosphere that it is almost a "Hewins Museum," although its charm and informality give the house no resemblance to a museum. The second event which happened fifty years ago, was Caroline M. Hewins' association with the Hartford Public Library, which began in 1904 and culminated in her outstanding work with children, in honor of which Frederic G. Melcher founded the Hewins Lectures. Mr and Mrs Arnold, in welcoming their guests, noted these events of the past and present which blended so effectively and provided the occasion for those interested in Miss Hewins and her work to pay tribute to her in the home in which she grew up.

Miss Hewins' niece recalled many happy incidents of her childhood when she frequently visited the Hewins' home and came to love and respect her Aunt Caroline. Anne Carroll Moore, Supervisor of Work with Children, Emeritus, New York Public Library, recalled her long and happy association with Miss Hewins. Jennie Lindquist, editor of THE HORN BOOK, told how CAROLINE M. HEWINS: HER BOOK came to be published. Alice M. Jordan, Supervisor of Work with Children, Emeritus, Boston Public Library,

was present to add to the happy occasion. Carrie L. Morse, Branch Librarian, Emeritus, and members of the staff of the West Roxbury Branch Library were among the special guests.

The dainty refreshments which concluded the afternoon were a nice material counterpart to the mental feast which had preceded. Boston can be grateful that the former Hewins home is now owned by people who appreciate its value in the literary background of New England.

Edna G. Peck

INTRODUCING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

At the conclusion of the monthly meeting of officers of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services on December first, the group met together for luncheon at Joseph's Restaurant. The luncheon was given to honor two "post graduates" of the Division--Edith Guerrier, Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Emeritus, and Orlando C. Davis, Chief Librarian of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, Emeritus. Joining with the group, to pay special tribute to their former officers were the following Emeriti: M. Florence Cufflin, Mrs Edith H. Bailey, Mrs Sara Lyon, Katherine S. Rogan, Elizabeth P. Ross, Mary M. Sullivan, and Rebecca E. Willis. Other guests were John J. Connolly, Elizabeth M. Wright, and Sarah M. Usher.

*

A delightful coffee party followed the meeting of Children's Librarians on Wednesday morning, December 8. Alice M. Jordan, Supervisor of Work with Children, Emeritus, was guest of honor, and, with Mr Lord and several other officers of the Library, enjoyed hot coffee and delicious pastries with the group.

The party made an auspicious moment for the presentation of a sterling silver steak set, in her chosen pattern, to Mrs Bette B. (Preer) Pinckney, in honor of her recent marriage.

The Children's Librarians presented also a lovely Christmas gift, an exquisite Royal Copenhagen figurine of a white duck, to Elizabeth M. Gordon, Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Children.

*

"Inspired by the Christmas Season"

The stars which blanket us at night
  Are just as bright by day,
Yet not a glimmer struggles past
  The Sun's superior ray.

Thus private talent will amaze
  Your neighbors and your fans;
And sink to nothingness beside
  The Shakespeares and Chopins.

H. Andrews

ALUMNI NOTES

Two of The Question Mark's loyal readers among the retired group recently sent checks with these notations: (1) "Would you please see that the enclosed check is forwarded to the treasurer of the Staff Association. I enjoy receiving 'The Question Mark' and hope this contribution won't put the Association in the 'income tax' bracket." (2) "Accept enclosed check as a tribute to 'The Question Mark', a literary journal." The checks have been gratefully received and forwarded to the treasurer and the QM is glad that it is keeping alumni members "in touch".

*

John Florence Sullivan, better known as Fred Allen, visited Central Library on November 19. Accompanied by LIFE photographers, he reanacted some of the duties he performed when he worked as an "extra"; visited with several who had worked with him; autographed two copies of his new book Treadmill to Oblivion (see page 165!); and was presented with Special Card No. 100 made out to "Fred Allen, Distinguished Alumnus, Boston Public Library, Boston 17. Expires November 19, 2054." All of this furnishes material for possible inclusion in a forthcoming article in LIFE.

*

The LIBRARY JOURNAL for November 15, 1954 contains an article entitled 50 years of Business Library Service, by Marion C. Manley, Business Librarian, Newark Public Library. Since two paragraphs on page 2135 concern Mrs Mary Watkins Dietrichson, Business Branch Librarian, Emeritus, we quote them here, and offer her our congratulations:

"Minneapolis was fortunate enough to

have Mary Watkins Dietrichson as the head of the Business and Municipal Branch from 1916 until 1927 and her fine mind and powers of discernment meant much in her interpretation of business service. One incident will serve to illustrate this. A Minneapolis paper planned an enlivening feature story about the Business and Municipal Branch and, along with ample material on its service, Mrs Dietrichson supplied the reporter with a simple computation of the actual cash value of the time saved their business patrons. It was this computation that made the headlines and was picked up by papers in other cities.

"Mrs Dietrichson came to Boston to head the Kirstein Business Branch established by Louis E. Kirstein, a trustee of the Boston Public Library. This gift by Mr Kirstein, in memory of his father, is so far the major contribution by an individual businessman to the development of this service. Mrs Dietrichson's discerning approach to fundamentals and the application of her sound scholarship were invaluable in the growth of this work. Both Minneapolis and Boston are monuments to these qualities in her and in both places where she was followed as business branch librarian by assistants she had trained, that influence was marked. Whether through conditions or by inclination she was less active in national association or general promotion efforts than others but she will always be notable for having probably the most scholarly and profound approach to this movement of those concerned with it in these early days."

*

Leonard Burkat, formerly First Assistant in Music and now Secretary to Mr Münch, has translated into English JE SUIS CHEF D'ORCHESTRE, by Charles Münch, Musical Director of the world-famous Boston Symphony Orchestra. An abridged edition of this is currently appearing in the Boston GLOBE.

FOUND

A pair of gold earrings in the Women's Lavatory, Stack 2 area.

A pair of glasses in the Coffee Shop on December 7, 1954

A pair of navy blue cotton gloves following the Children's Librarians' Coffee Party on December 8, 1954.

A black knitted wristet following the Children's Librarians' Coffee Party on December 8, 1954.

Owners may claim in the Personnel Office.

ROUND TABLE OF CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS

News of two awards was the highlight of the December meeting held in the Lecture Hall at Central, December 9. Elizabeth Johnson, Supervisor of Work with Children, Lynn Public Library, told about the plans for the proposed Melcher Scholarship Fund which, it is hoped, will be announced in July at the ALA convention. The children's librarians were asked to help publicize the news of this award so that other librarians who might be interested would have an opportunity to participate in this fine tribute to Mr Melcher. Alice Cushman, Fitchburg Library, announced the new Flanders-Perreault Literary Award which is to be given annually by Edwin Flanders. This will be a dual award given both to the individual girl and to the Girls Club of which she is a member.

Virginia Haviland made a preliminary announcement of the programs which will be of interest to children's librarians at the forthcoming convention in Philadelphia in July, and Arlene Thorp, of City Library, Manchester, New Hampshire, stressed the value and importance of ALA membership to all librarians.

After the brief business meeting, Mrs Muriel C. Javelin introduced the group to the techniques of conducting a buzz session. A practice session provided opportunity for much spirited buzzing as the groups discussed the questions of borderline books, books in series, readers, and pre-school programs.

Mary West

JEWISH BOOK MONTH

"The Jew in Literature" a special Jewish Book Month program, and one of a series of American-Jewish Tercentenary observances, was held in the Lecture Hall at Central, Sunday afternoon, November 28. Dr Eisig Silberschlag, Dean of the Hebrew Teacher's College in Brookline, presided. Tercentenary Greetings were extended by Fanny Goldstein as Curator of Judaica, and secretary of the Boston Jewish Book Month Committee.

The distinguished and warmly received speakers were Hannah R. London, author, who spoke on How I discovered early American-Jewish portraits; Harry H. Fein, poet-author, who read from his latest book Songs at Eventide; Dr Meir Ben-Horin, author, whose talk was From an Author's Note-Book; and, Dr S. Norman Feingold, Executive Director of the Jewish Vocational Service of Greater Boston, who spoke on Books for Self-Help. Pianist Mollie Ehrlich provided the music for the program.

*

Boston had a highly exciting and rewarding experience December 11, at West End. A literary evening was held in honor of Dr Judd Teller of New York, author of the very recent stimulating and provocative book SCAPEGOAT OF REVOLUTION. The topic of the address was "The Jewish Problem Yesterday and Today."

This was Dr Teller's first appearance in Boston. He proved to be a gentleman who was exceedingly well informed on his topic and who presented rapid-fire glimpses of the material contained in his book in a dynamic and convincing manner. His audience was definitely held spell-bound as he sky-rocketed through time, space and history, tracing the fate of the Jew in each critical period of the country.

Richard G. Hensley, Chief Librarian, Division of Reference and Research Services, brought the greetings of the Library and commented on the importance of such literary evenings in the community. Dr Leon F. Medalia made a few appropriate remarks as a member of the Examining Committee. Dr Hyman Morrison, a member of the Jewish Book Month Committee since its inception, gave the formal greetings in behalf of the Committee and spoke on the importance of the Jewish book as an everlasting force in Jewish life. Mark Bortman, a former West End boy, a leading Boston industrialist, and President of the Boston Chapter of the American Jewish Historical Society, gave the historic back-ground of the Jew in America.

A surprise guest of the evening was Ben Yahouda, from Israel, son of the illustrious Eliezer Yahouda, who is responsible for the revival of the Hebrew language and the publication of the dictionary.

A social hour followed.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction--Library Science

Akers, Susan G. Simple library cataloging. 4th ed.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1954

Columbia University. School of Library Service
The subject analysis of library materials; papers prepared at an institute, June 24-28, 1952
New York, 1953

Grove, Lee E. Of Brooks & books.
Minneapolis, Univ. of Minneapolis Press, 1945

Conference on Intellectual Freedom, 2d, Whittier, California, 1953.
Freedom of book selection.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1954

Muir, Percival H. English children's books, 1600 to 1900.
New York, Praeger, 1954

DEPARTMENT NOTES

General Reference

The Department congratulates P. Joseph Reilly and his force on the excellent job of cleaning and polishing the wood surfaces and tables in Bates Hall. This task, and others incidental to a complete cleaning job, improved the appearance of the Department immensely and is much appreciated.

BRANCH NOTES

Mattapan

The busy month of November was highlighted with a variety of activities in addition to those regularly scheduled.

For Book Week, the feature attraction was a talk given by Richard T. Flood, well-known author of sports stories for young people. Speaking before a capacity audience of 150 boys and girls, Mr Flood described his method of writing a book from the time he has chosen his subject until the story is ready for publication. A question period followed the conclusion of the talk.

A special program honoring Jewish Book Month was presented by the Friends of the Mattapan Branch Library at their monthly meeting on November 22. Included on the program were The Ballad of the

American Jew a monologue given by Mary Kadish; a series of Jewish melodies by the Jewish Folk Chorus of Boston; and a review of Sholem Aleichem and his World by Mrs Blanche Daniels. A social hour following the meeting gave the newer members of the Friends group an opportunity to become further acquainted with the work of the Friends of the Library.

Prizes for the pet show Essay and Poetry contest were awarded on Friday, December 3 in the Children's Room. First-prize winners were Maxine Creed and Beverly and Lynda Flaum. Certificates of Honorable Mention were given to Harvey Goldberg, Phyllis Gruska, Linda Halperin, Anita Kassner, Ronnie Miller, Marsha Prefontaine, Barbara Slotnick and Carol Ann Smith.

Neponset

During Book Week the children in the Neponset schools were asked to write a composition on What the Library Means to Me.

Great enthusiasm for the subject was manifested by the children of both lower and upper grades, and numerous compositions of varying length were submitted. These compositions proved so interesting in content and expression that we felt sure the staffs of other branches would enjoy reading them as much as we have here at Neponset. We have, therefore, taken the liberty to quote parts of these compositions for your diversion.

Most of the children remarked on the valuable aid the Library has rendered them in their school work, and how much pleasure they have had in reading all the wonderful books during their hours of leisure. But let's have the children speak for themselves, with no editing:

Donald Z.— Grade 3: "I like the Library because it helps me to be smart in school. And it is enjoying. And it is fine because you read about difrent people. Funny people and mystrous people. And that is why I like the Library."

Elissa M.— Grade 4: "Books are fine. They help to grow a wonderful mind."

Thomas B.— Grade 5: "Through the library you can help educate yourself by reading good books."

Marion R.— Grade 6: "The library is like a boat carrying me to far-off countries."

Kathleen M.— Grade 7: "It is a place to go for peace and quiet, a place to concentrate and think over any problems which may be bothering us."

Francis T.— Grade 8: "When I go into a library, it is like going into another world where I meet new friends. The more books I read, the more friends I meet."

South Boston

C. W. Anderson, noted author and artist, was guest speaker at a Saturday morning meeting of the Imagination Club, as a culmination of Book Week activities. Mr Anderson gave the children a fine demonstration on how to draw a horse, with particular attention being given to rhythmic lines of construction and anatomical details. The manner in which the hind legs should be drawn was described very carefully. The boys and girls of the Club, ranging in grades from kindergarten through the second year of high school, accorded Mr Anderson the respectful attention due to a famous artist. We know that Mr Anderson has spoken to larger groups than the one present, but we doubt if he has often encountered a child audience that honored him primarily as an artist rather than as celebrity. The staff would like to believe that Mr Anderson was as much impressed with the boys and girls of South Boston and their interest in art, as they were in him and his skill. Following his lecture, Mr Anderson had coffee with the members of the staff and the Alumni Advisors to the Imagination Club who had served as ushers at the program.

*

On Friday morning, November 26, the Teen Age Reporters Club, a book review club for girls of junior high school age, visited Central Library with Martha C. Engler, Children's Librarian. The members had previously reported on books and articles dealing with various aspects of the Library in preparation forthe tour. Mrs Muriel C. Javelin,

Deputy Supervisor, In Charge of Work with Adults, greeted the girls and arranged for them to have a special record program in the Preview Room. While departments were visited, perhaps the biggest thrill of the day occurred in the Treasure Room where Moorfield Storey opened a case and let them inspect, page by page, one of the medieval manuscript books. As a grand finale, the girls were treated to ice-cream cake in the Coffee Shop.

South End

Book Week was celebrated by a variety of events. About thirty teachers from the Rice and Dwight school districts, who responded to invitations to a tea on Wednesday, enjoyed seeing the large display of new books. The enthusiastic response may be attributed to the RSVP on the invitations. At least, one teacher said that that was what convinced him and his colleagues that a tea at the library was of real importance. It seems that a tea for teachers may well become an annual Book Week affair.

It was delightful to be able to arrange special Book Week story hours for two separate groups from South End House, seven and eight year olds on Tuesday, and six year olds on Thursday. Phyllis R. Kallman, Assistant in Charge of Work with Children, told stories with the aid of Bertha D. Streeter, also a staff member.

A delegation of children attended the wonderful Book Week program at Central Library, on Saturday. The group was small, bad weather keeping many of the children at home. The few who went truly enjoyed the program, especially "that picture-making man."

Uphams Corner

Anyone passing by on Wednesday evening, November 17, at 7:30 P.M., would have perhaps raised an eyebrow at the peculiar animal sounds emanating from the Children's Room. In celebration of Book Week, a pet show was presented with an appropriate display of pet and animal books, old and new.

Mr Wolfe, owner of a pet store, was kind enough to bring a hamster, a parakeet, a guinea pig, and other animals, in addition to his presenting a very engaging talk about his animals and their habits. He apologized for not being able to bring the baby lion and baby leopard he had planned on. This statement met with mixed reactions from the audience.

Jane Larson kept children, parents, and staff fascinated with the antics of her trained dog, Rinso. John J. O'Neill from Franklin Park Zoo displayed one of the main features of the evening, a large white cockatoo. A fascinating question and answer period was conducted by Dr Gutteridge, a Canton Veterinarian.

The parents and children, comprising an audience of about 140 people, were quite vociferous in their rpaise of the program. It can be accurately stated that the animals seemed to enjoy the people as much as the latter enjoyed them. A spirit of good animal-and fellow-ship prevailed all around.

West End

On Friday, November 19, The Space Travelers, members of the Summer Reading Club, embarked on their last flight through the universe, transported by the magic of words and music (by means of book reviews and recordings) to the Grand Canyon in Colorado, to a maplewood in Vermont, to New York for a visit with a queen, to China, and to a far-off planet in outer space. The take-off place was the lecture hall at the library; Mrs Lehane, children's librarian, piloted the expedition; Frances Jaworski, club secretary, called out the stops.

Reading Certificates were awarded to the children who had circled the heavens, visiting each of the planets, at least once. And four prizes, books donated by the Branch Librarian, were presented by her to the three girls and one boy who had traveled farthest during the summer.

Ice cream, cookies, and candy were provided to refresh the travelers at the end of their long journey.

*

On November 30, at 8 p.m., more than sixty parents and children gathered in the main room to observe Children's Book Week. Fanny Goldstein, welcomed the group; spoke about the early history of the Branch; and explained the significance of Book Week. She commented on two of this fall's children's books which happened to have been read in manuscript by West End children, explaining the role the children had played in the publication of these books.

Quoting President Eisenhower's recently expressed desire that more mothers should teach their children about the children of other lands, Mrs Lehane, Children's Librarian, pointed out how well today's books for children accomplish that very end. Mrs Lehane reviewed a number of newly published children's books.

Carl F. Bowen of West Cedar Street, one of the fathers who attended the Parent's night with his daughters, presented the Library with a gift of six books.

The children served their parents with cider and doughnuts; and afterward, everyone took advantage of the opportunity to examine the new books that were displayed on tables around the room.

Phillips Brooks

On November 15, a special Book Week record program was held for children in grades 3 through 8.

On Tuesday afternoon, the three winners of the Book Week essay contest read their essays on MY FAVORITE BOOK CHARACTER. Book prizes were awarded to the winners in each age group participating: Grades 3-4; 5-6; 7-9. Following the awards there was an illustrated talk by author-artist Nancy Barnhart who entertained the audience with original drawings and an account of her trip to the Holy Land in preparation for her book THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.

Bookmobile I

On November 19, Mrs Joyce P. Ellis of the Bookmobile I staff gave a book talk to the parents and patrons of the West Medway Public Library in observance of the annual National Book Week.

That part of the program presented for the adults was entitled "How to Use Books with Children", and Mrs Ellis concluded her talk by giving a story hour for the children.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

Dear Editor:

How long should a person be expected to assume charge of a department or branch library, performing the duties of chief or branch librarian, without receiving the recognition he or she is entitled to--a fair and just compensation? Additional take-home pay amounting in some cases to less than $.70 a week is merely a token payment for such added responsibility.

If the present policy did not anticipate that those below the level of Fifth Step would be Assistants-in-Charge for periods of years, it seems only fair to make adequate provision for salaries which would more justly compensate individuals placed in such positions.

Fair Play

Dear Editor:

The November 1954 issue of The Question Mark carried a gracious editorial of thanks from our Editor in behalf of those individuals who received raises. However, lest we forget, there are groups who did not share in this bounty. Assistants-in-Charge, those unfortunates who in some instances received the princely sum of $50.00 a year (one step within grade) over and above their regular salaries, still have bestowed upon them the privilege of discharging the duties of a chief and all the responsibilities entailed.

A situation such as this is permitted to exist. Yet, concern is actually felt in some quarters about "staff morale." Payment of less than $1.00 a week for substituting for a chief could hardly be considered a morale-builder.

PUZZLED

L A T E F L A S H E S

More Parties

On December 14, a group of staff friends gathered at the Darbury Room for a luncheon in honor of Laurie Abate, Office of the Division of Reference and Research Services, who will leave for Rome on December 18 to be married there on December 27.

Along with a beautiful white orchid corsage trimmed with holly, Laurie was presented with an electric mixer, and a mayonnaise dish with sterling silver ladle.

*

Mrs Janice Hunt, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, was the guest of the staff of the office at a farewell luncheon at Joseph's on December 15. Mr Hunt was also a guest at the luncheon. Mrs Hunt is to be away from the Library on a maternity leave of absence.

*

Young Adult Workers (Div. of H.R. and C.S.) enjoyed a Christmas coffee hour in the Women's Lounge during their regular monthly meeting on December 15.

Dr Kenneth D. Berne, Director of the Human Relations Center and Berenson Professor of Human Relations at B.U. had been the speaker of the morning and was guest of honor at the coffee hour. Other invited guests included officers from various units in Central Library.

ANOTHER VISITOR

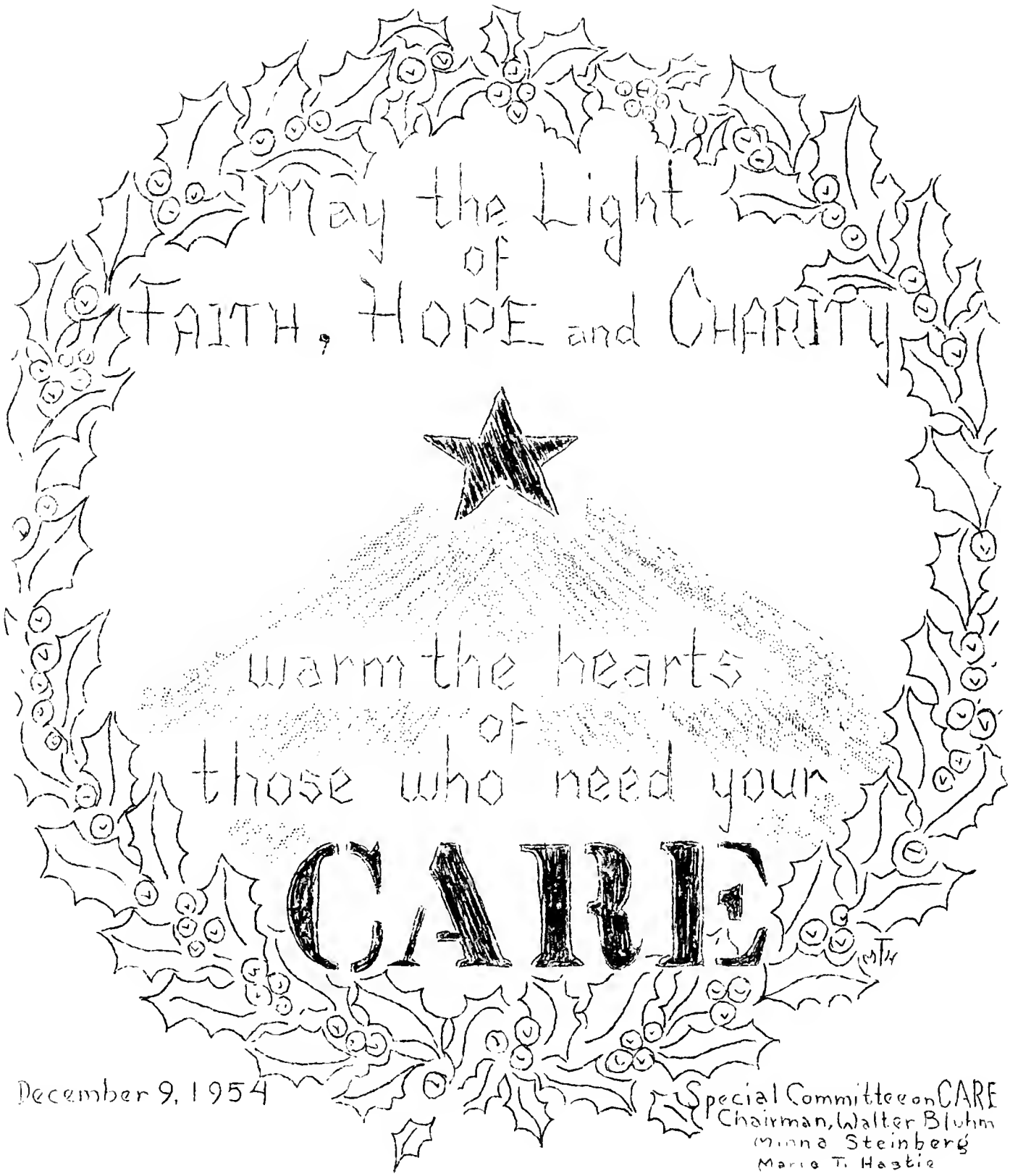
Dr Julio Cesar Arroyave, Director, Medellin Library Project, Colombia, South America.

CITY OF BOSTON EMPLOYEES BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM

Donate a pint of blood at the Red Cross Blood Donor Center, Marlborough and Dartmouth Streets, under the City of Boston Employees Blood Donor Program. For such a donation, donors and their families are promised, while in any Massachusetts hospital, such blood as may be needed in whatever amounts are available.

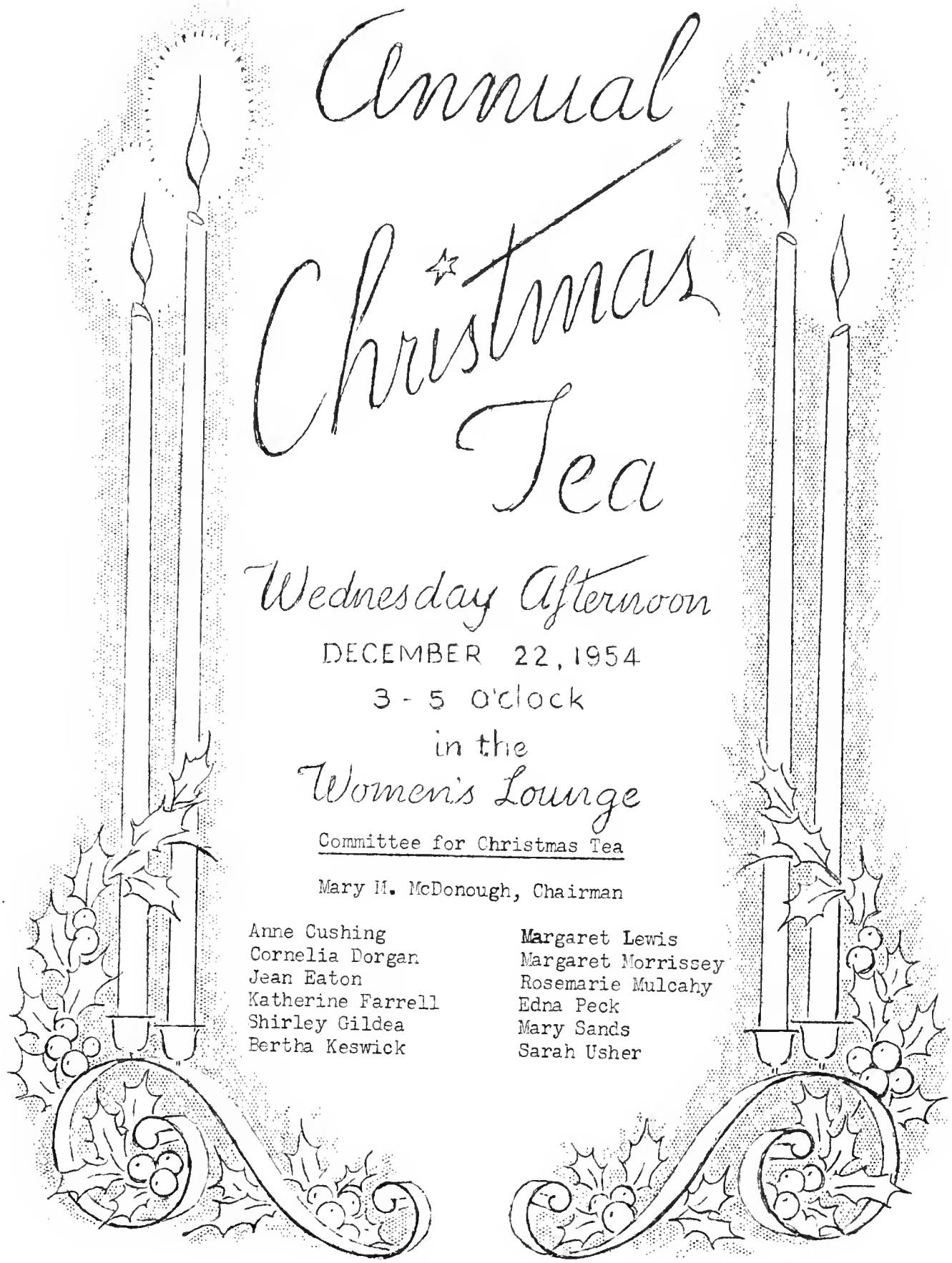
For further details please call Mrs Wollent at Extension 244.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Professional Staff Association



December 9, 1954

Special Committee on CARE
Chairman, Walter Bluhm
Minna Steinberg
Marie T. Hastie



Annual Christmas Tea

Wednesday Afternoon

DECEMBER 22, 1954

3 - 5 o'clock

in the

Women's Lounge

Committee for Christmas Tea

Mary M. McDonough, Chairman

Anne Cushing
Cornelia Dorgan
Jean Eaton
Katherine Farrell
Shirley Gildea
Bertha Keswick
Margaret Lewis
Margaret Morrissey
Rosemarie Mulcahy
Edna Peck
Mary Sands
Sarah Usher

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